

Mrs Thatcher rallies the wavering Tories

The balance of power must be redressed in favour of the individual and away from massed trade unionism, the Prime Minister said yesterday in a noisy debate on Labour's censure motion against the Government. Moving the motion, Mr James Callaghan said Mrs Thatcher's monetarist dream had become a nightmare; she was beginning to lose control of monetary policy.

Callaghan call for change of course

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

Battling against continuous upsurge from the Labour benches in the Commons, the Prime Minister yesterday rallied her supporters with a battery to redress the balance of power in favour of the individual and away from the massed ranks of trade unionism.

It was a resolute and courageous message which brought Tory MPs cheering to their feet and which gave no ground to the waverers in her party and her Cabinet.

Mrs Thatcher was supported by a full panoply of her senior colleagues, including Mr James Prior, Sir Keith Joseph, Mr Francis Pym and Mr William Whitelaw.

If Mr James Callaghan, in moving Labour's motion of no confidence in the Government's economic and industrial policies, had hoped for some sign of a reversal of government policy, he would have been disappointed with yesterday's censure debate.

Urging the Government to change course, the Opposition leader told the Prime Minister that she had been "rumbled" by the people and that her monetarist dream had turned into a nightmare.

But there was not the slightest sign of a crack in Mrs Thatcher's resolve and no amount of shouting from the Labour benches could dampen her determination to carry on as she had begun.

With massive emphasis she told the House that the Government remained determined to bring down the growth of the money supply, that could be done in two ways only: by ensuring that borrowing by the private sector did not grow too fast and by reducing the burden of government borrowing.

If monetary targets were to be achieved and either one of those two factors was too high then interest rates must rise. The only sure way of attacking inflation was to keep the money supply closely related to the output of goods and services.

The White Paper on public expenditure which would be published at about the time of the Budget next month, would show substantial cuts on Labour's plans, Mrs Thatcher said.

Indicating that income tax would not be increased in the Budget, Mrs Thatcher went on to say that the only alternative policy to the Government's would be to increase income tax and surely the Opposition is not suggesting that.

Mrs Thatcher was not in a conciliatory mood and she swung into the trade unions with both fists flailing.

Too many trade unions, she said, still seem determined to make demands which would ultimately inflict damage on themselves and on their fellow trade unionists. That was why her government was determined to redress the balance of power.

The last government increased the legal immunities of unions until it seemed that whatever harm they inflicted on others, neither individuals nor industry had any legal redress.

Just as the unions had once sought redress from the arbitrary actions of employers, so today individuals and businesses were seeking protection from the power and might of unions. The Employment Bill, now before the House, began to redress the balance of power in favour of individuals and those not involved in a trade dispute.

The sooner union leaders acknowledged the correctness of what was being done the sooner unions would return to public favour and the quicker the economy would recover.

Mr Callaghan, opening the censure debate, made an effective speech which must have given many an anxious moment to Tory MPs, some of whom are still not sure of their leader's resilience.

He spoke of a serious deterioration taking place in the social atmosphere of Britain's towns and cities, and scoffed at Tory MPs' disapproving comment policies which he detected in the country, in the ranks of the Conservative Party and even within the Cabinet.

The Government's almost religious belief in a rigid monetary policy was weakening and bleeding the nation's industries.

The Opposition leader asked whether Mrs Thatcher could truthfully say that her speeches since taking office were intended to bring harmony and unity.

He produced a plan to resolve the steel strike by suggesting that the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service should appoint an independent mediator, with both sides undertaking to accept his findings.

Then, in a courageous passage, the Opposition leader said that the Labour movement would not support practices that intimidated working people or blockaded factories.

Some of those who were trying to get into the slipstream behind the Labour Party should believe that, including those flying pickets who shouldered their way into other people's genuine trade union disputes.

The Prime Minister, Mr Callaghan concluded, had lost control of prices, employment and earnings and she was beginning to lose control of monetary policy.

Parliamentary report, page 8

Raiders ask \$50m for ambassador hostages

Bogotá, Feb 28.—Guerrillas holding 14 ambassadors and a number of other hostages at the Dominican Republic embassy in Bogotá made five demands today for the release of their captives.

An official statement said they wanted the release of 311 leftist prisoners, a \$50m (about £22m) ransom, the withdrawal of security forces from around the embassy, publication of a statement and talks with the Colombian Government.

The President's press office said the demands were given to Señor Alfredo Vasquez Carrizosa, a former Foreign Minister, when he and another negotiator spent an hour in the occupied embassy this morning.

Their statement added that President Ayala told the mediators their report was good material upon which the Government would make a decision.

The press office also said that Mr Vasquez Carrizosa asked the guerrillas, from the M19 movement, to release women who were caught up in the raid yesterday during a reception to mark the Dominican Republic's national day. The guerrillas replied that they would do so only if the Colombian Government agreed to talk.

The statement said the mediators expressed concern about "the wounded", although it was not clear how many injured were in the embassy. There have been persistent but unconfirmed reports that Señor Oscar



A wounded policeman is carried to safety by colleagues after a gunfight with guerrillas in Bogotá.

Gerostogias, the Paraguayan Chargé d'Affaires, was shot in the shoulder.

The 14 ambassadors being held are from Austria, Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Switzerland, the United States, Uruguay, Venezuela and the Vatican. The Bolivian Chargé d'Affaires was also inside the building. The embassy was stormed yesterday by more than 20 guerrillas, and an official statement last night said three soldiers and one civilian were wounded.

The M19 group is one of several leftist and communist groups in Colombia which oppose President Turbay's Government. More than 200 of its members are facing trial on charges including murder, kidnapping, rebellion and armed robbery.

The embassy takeover was the sixth time diplomats have been taken hostage in recent weeks in Latin America.

Senor Antonio Delaunde, the Peruvian ambassador, who escaped through the kitchen with about 15 other people when the guerrillas attacked, said he fought between 50 to 60 people who were being held.

The guerrillas said they were

holding 20 ambassadors and 40 other diplomatic personnel.

In La Paz, Señor Julio Garret Ayllon the Bolivian Foreign Minister said his government had asked the other countries of the Andean Pact trade group—Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia—to try to coordinate initiatives aimed at freeing the hostages.—Reuter.

Kidnappers' background, page 15

Leading article, page 15

Five orchestras and 1,500 jobs to go in BBC's £130m cuts

By Kenneth Gosling

Proposals to cut £130m off the BBC's £1,000m budget over the next two years were outlined yesterday by the corporation's director-general, Mr Ian Trethowan.

They involve the loss of 1,500 jobs, the disbandment of five of the corporation's "house" orchestras; a 10 per cent cut in schools and continuing education programmes, details of which have still to be worked out; an earlier finish for Radio 3 and some merging of Radios 3 and 4, and the scrapping of the 11-year-old Radio 2 serial *Waggoners' Walk*.

The main saving—£90m—will come from deferring capital expenditure projects and the rest from economies in existing operations. The BBC emphasized the value it attached to preserving the networks but was also at pains to point out that the greatest slice of the cuts will

come in London and not the regions.

Local radio plans will continue with 35 stations in operation by the mid-1980s.

The BBC's unions were handed the proposals and their reactions and those of other interested bodies will be considered by the BBC board of governors when it meets on March 6. It is unlikely that there will be a decision then on whether the package will be implemented as it stands.

Mr Aubrey Singer, managing director of BBC radio, said he regretted the need for the cuts. "What is happening is that over the next few years you will see a much slimmer BBC emerging but maybe it will be a BBC that is stronger and more able to cope with financial problems."

On the orchestra cuts, Mr Singer said the BBC would still have three symphony and three light orchestras, more than any other European broadcasting organization, employing a quarter of the country's musicians.

BBC radio paid for the orchestras, he said. "Our big brothers up the road don't wish to use them," he added. Boycott possible: The musicians' union intends to oppose with all its resources the disbandment of the orchestras, and one possibility under consideration will be a boycott of all BBC music by union members (our Music Reporter writes).

While the union recognizes the difficult position in which the BBC was placed, it said the proposed cuts were unacceptable.

Dr David Lumsden, principal of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, has launched a campaign to fight the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra closure, which he described as a "devastating blow" to the musical life of Scotland.

Details, page 4

Sharp warning to US on protectionism

From Peter Hill
Industrial Editor
Paris, Feb 28

Europe today issued its toughest warning yet that Washington should drop threats of anti-dumping action against EEC steel exports to the United States.

Viscount Etienne Davignon, EEC Commissioner for Industry, launched a strong attack on America's protectionist tendencies in an outspoken and uncompromising speech to delegates attending an international symposium on the steel industry's problems.

He gave a warning that any trade war would quickly spread. "My position—and this is a warning uttered not without great forethought—is that I must underline that if we enter into a trade war and protectionism in steel, cars will follow rapidly, and after cars it will be the shipyards and then advanced technology industries," he said.

The commissioner's comments came at a time of mounting tension between the two trading blocks and the strong possibility that American steel companies will go ahead with their anti-dumping submissions early next week. His speech preoccupied the symposium, organized by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which was meant to be concerned with the longer term problems of the steel industry.

Among Viscount Davignon's listeners were the heads of two of the American steel companies who have canvassed the Carter administration to take action against European steel, which they claim is flooding into the United States despite a trigger price mechanism designed to control the flow of imports.

The mechanism, due to be revised early next week, is based on production costs of Japanese steel producers, regarded as the most efficient in the world.

Continued on page 17, col 5

West Germany to increase defence spending

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, Feb 28

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, in a statement on the Afghanistan crisis, told Parliament today that West Germany would increase its defence spending by 3 per cent this year.

He indicated that West Germany would be able to achieve this target, agreed on by Nato in 1978 and long pressed for by the United States, largely by giving substantial military aid to Turkey and Greece.

Until now the Government has said it would probably be unable to increase its defence budget in 1980 by more than 2 per cent in real terms.

The Chancellor said the visit last week of Mr Cyrus Vance, the United States Secretary of State, showed that there had been progress towards a com-

mon Western policy on Afghanistan and he was sure that further steps would be made during his visit to President Carter next week.

He said the Government would be prepared to join in a block on credit guarantees for exports to the Soviet Union if the United States and other measures were not undermined by other countries. But he stressed that West Germany had built up a large trade with the Soviet Union for political reasons over the years and if it were broken off it would take years to reestablish.

Herr Schmidt said that West Germany would also agree to severe restrictions on the export of strategic goods to the Soviet Union. He made it clear, however, that since the German Government, unlike others, did not give state credits for trade with the Soviet

Union, and since much of this aid was guaranteed by treaties there was little it could do in the way of sanctions.

During the debate Herr Willy Brandt, the former Chancellor, indicated he was willing to help get the United States and the Soviet Union talking again.

Herr Brandt has recently received hints from the Soviet Union that he might use his contacts in Moscow and Washington to restore communications between the two powers, and he had discussed this with President Carter. But Herr Klaus Bölling, the government spokesman, has made it clear that there can be no question of Herr Brandt acting as a mediator. West Germany's position in the Western alliance did not suit it for such a role.

Herr Brandt told the Bundestag today: "I would not presume to act in the place of

the government... but I will work for peace till my last breath, for the sake of our people and for the sake of Europe."

He recalled that he was the president of the Socialist International which had agreed that it should do everything "to bring about a dialogue to prevent things from going kaputt. So I have a duty."

The Chancellor reiterated his belief that the two powers must get in touch again, but indirectly opposed an official Brandt mediation role by quoting an interview he gave earlier this month saying: "In order to talk the two world powers do not need the services of the Federal Republic of Germany."

Aid for Turkey, page 6
Carrington plan rebuffed, page 7

President Tito remains in a critical condition

From Dossa Trevisan
Belgrade, Feb 28

For the past week, President Tito's condition has been critical and the only question left now is how much longer his rapidly weakening body can hold out.

The bulletins, which keep up a daily flow of terse information, today merely said that his condition was unchanged and that he had spent a quiet night.

The President, whose kidneys failed two weeks ago, has since contracted more complicated ailments. His pneumonia could not be contained, and he is also suffering from lung congestion, internal haemorrhage and coronary insufficiency. In fact, all his vital organs have been affected one way or another.

UN assured of visit to hostages

New York, Feb 28.—The United Nations has received a written promise from Iran that the commission sent by it to Tehran to investigate complaints against the American hostages, a United Nations spokesman said today.

Despite renewed objections from the students occupying the United States Embassy, the spokesman said there was no doubt that the meeting would be arranged.

Tehran, Feb 28.—The United Nations commission said today that it would tell the world to what "unimaginable lengths" human rights were violated under the Shah's rule.

Mr Mohamed Bedjaoui, of Algeria, the commission's chairman, made the promise in an impassioned speech to 1,500 chanting invalids of last year's revolution at a Tehran hotel.

In the strongest statement yet made by the five-man panel, he said: "The formidable power of repression reigned here for more than 25 years. You have realized an extraordinary miracle thanks to the powerful force of your spiritual and your national solidarity to dethrone this power."

No more than 25 American journalists will be allowed to return to Iran under new guidelines issued by the ruling Revolutionary Council. Mr Abolqasem Sadegh, the foreign press director, said in an interview with the newspaper *Kayhan* published today.—Reuter.

London crime rate falls

Crime in London fell by 2 per cent last year. Robberies and burglaries dropped by 4 per cent, and commercial robberies were 20 per cent down, showing that the areas on which a large proportion of police resources were deployed had paid off. But criminal damage rose by 6 per cent and assaults including murder, went up 12 per cent.

Japanese fishermen kill 800 dolphins

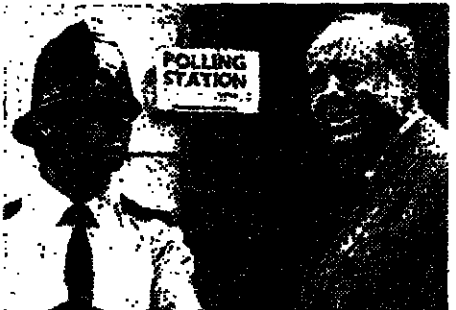
Japanese fishermen butchered 800 dolphins at the island of Iki. They slaughtered the mammals because they were encroaching on their fishing grounds. Protests by conservationists were brushed aside by the fishermen, who slaughtered 2,000 dolphins two years ago for feeding on the fish on which they depend for their living.

Windscale leak 'safe'

The leak of radioactive water from a silo at Windscale, found in 1976, may have not started in 1972. A report says it is not dangerous and attempts to stop it would be justified unless the leakage rises or the level of radioactivity rises.

US spouse law changed

The United States Supreme Court overturned centuries-old legislation preventing married people testifying against their spouses in future the decision on whether spouses will be left to the individual or not to testify will be left to the individual. The court's ruling has pleased women's rights groups.



Somewhere in Rhodesia: It was pouring with rain when Lord Somers, the Governor of Southern Rhodesia, met the British hobbie maintaining law and order at a polling station during the second day of black voting. Despite the downpour, it was another heavy turnout though the gusts of Coca Cola were rigging added a sour taste.

Jail inquiry ordered

Scotland Yard has been asked to investigate a clash between prison officers and prisoners at Wormwood Scrubs. Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, has been told that during another inquiry prima facie evidence emerged of criminal assault by officers on prisoners.

BL car sales up

BL's share of the home car market has climbed to 17 per cent so far this month compared with a record low market share of 15 per cent last month. The figures confirm the impact of the Buy British campaign.

Bill 'clips M15 wings'

A private member's Bill intended to "clip the wings of the M15" is not expected by its sponsor to get a second reading, but his pressure for curbs will continue.

Giant furnace at risk

Future steelmaking in the North of England was placed in jeopardy by several hours when heavy picketing by workers at the British Steel Corporation's Teesside plants prevented safety workers from tending the 100,000-ton blast-furnace at Redcar. For three or four hours only a skeleton staff was available to safeguard the furnace.

Lance trial witness

A witness has at last been called, seven weeks into the trial on banking charges of Mr Barr Lance. President Carter's former budget director. Lawyers for Mr Lance have been using their right to challenge any of the thousands of evidence documents.

French 'medicine'

Spending cuts and higher contributions have balanced the accounts of the French national health service and promise a surplus in 1981 instead of the big deficits of the past.

Corrie Bill: A proposed amendment to the Abortion Amendment Bill would remove protection from doctors who carry out abortions on handicapped foetuses.

Rehabilitation: Civil rights have been restored to 677 political dissidents in South Korea.

Classified advertisements: Appointments, page 9; Car Buyers Guide, 23; Leap Year Lovers, 25; Personal, 23-26.

Leader page, 15

Letters: On the economy, from Mr P. V. Muston, and others; on micro-electronics, from Mr Eric Varley, MP and others. Leading articles: Medical schools; Bogota; Ship marriages. Features, pages 10, 14. Geoffrey Smith on why the Government should pay more attention to social policies.

Arts, page 13. Nicholas Wapshott, reviewing the week's films, finds an excess of moralizing in *The Orion Field*; William Mann and Paul Moor on operatic seasons in Cardiff and West Berlin; Welsh National's Eugene Onegin and Deutsche Oper's Macbeth.

Obituary, page 16. Lady Bassett, Mr Andrew Hardie, Mr I. A. R. Peablies, The Hon Michael Astor.

Sport, pages 10-12. Motor: Racing: Swiss driver crashes during Grand Prix practice; Racing: Win at Lingfield Park for oldest steeplechaser; Rugby Union: More changes in Scottish team; Sports Council: Chairman sees changes in South Africa.

Business News, pages 17-22. Stock Markets: Full year figures from ICI spurred equities into action but gilts were dull as trading began in the new "up". The FT index rose 8.7 to 469.1.

Financial Editor: ICI Ninian gains; Vickers sell to French; Hawker buys from Americans; Business features: David Hewson reports on the Irish ban on cigarette retail power advertising and what this could mean for Britain; Kenneth Owen on the long-life car.

Home News: 2, 4, 5. Diary: 6. Engagements: 7. Appointments: 16, 20. Arts: 13. Letters: 15. Sport: 10-12. Business: 16. Motor: 11. TV & Radio: 25.

Crossword: 16. Parliament: 8. 25 Years Ago: 16. Sale Room: 16. Science: 10, 14. Snow reports: 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25.

Theatres, etc: 12, 13. 25 Years Ago: 16. Universities: 16. Weather: 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25.

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HOME NEWS

Heavy picketing puts safety of Redcar furnace in jeopardy

From Ronald Kershaw
Northern Industrial
Correspondent
Redcar

Heavy picketing by strikers at the British Steel Corporation's Redcar plant yesterday prevented safety workers from tending the 100,000-ton blast furnace at Redcar, and for several hours placed in jeopardy the future of steelmaking in the North of England.

The huge furnace, the biggest in Europe and one of the most modern in the world, is the sole supplier of iron for steelmaking in the North-east. A BSC official said yesterday that for three or four hours only a skeleton staff was available to service the blast furnace. "It caused us some anxiety because we need these people to safeguard the plant," he said.

After hurried telephone calls, full-time union officials went to the Redcar works to speak to the pickets, with the result that some safety workers went on duty in the afternoon.

The furnace is banked to maintain a temperature that will preserve its lining but a corporation official said it needs constant care and attention. Equally important, the coke ovens at Redcar, which have constantly to produce a minimum level of coke to safeguard the linings, are part of the steel complex, along with a sinter plant, or terminal, pelleting plant and other equipment which cost £400m.

In South Yorkshire intensi-

fied picketing forecast by the strike committee earlier this week did not materialize. At private-sector companies, the estimated 300 police on duty easily outnumbered the pickets. There were no incidents.

Mr Stanley Sheridan, the strike committee spokesman yesterday, said that Mr James Brownlow, South Yorkshire's Chief Constable, who has said that existing legislation was sufficient to maintain law and order on picket lines.

Mr Sheridan said that Tory critics felt that further action should have been taken during the mass picket of Hadfield's in Sheffield on February 14.

"If there had been firmer action, there would have been a lot of bloodshed," he said. "The situation could have got out of control. We support the chief constable in his belief that the Prior Bill will be a waste of time, and do nothing but cause conflict."

Mr Sheridan said that the disturbances had taken place because outside police forces were brought in.

It was likely that engineering companies in South Yorkshire and other steel users, would be the next targets for pickets. They would aim to prevent the movement of steel.

He welcomed the cooperation of the Transport and General Workers' Union, which he said had given instructions yesterday that lorry drivers in the union should not cross picket lines.

Mr McGahey leads miners in demonstration of support

From Ronald Faux
Glasgow

About 100 Scottish miners led by Mr Michael McGahey, president of the Scottish National Union of Mineworkers, marched to the gates of the steel stockholders' yard at Bellshill, near Glasgow, yesterday, pledging support for the steel strikers.

They joined some 200 steel pickets and booed and shouted at lorry drivers entering and leaving the yard, where a number of pickets were arrested last week for obstruction.

Two lorries were turned away at the height of the protest but a third, loaded with steel girders, forced its way slowly

through the lines of chanting pickets.

Police gave a warning to picket leaders that there would be arrests if the action was repeated.

Mr McGahey told the steelworkers that the miners had arrived to express solidarity with them in their battle for better wages and, looking to the future, in the battle over their jobs.

The two industries were interdependent, he said. "We hope to continue our support until you conclude your victory and we hope it will be a substantial one," he said.

Large reinforcements of police standing by were not called out.

Union leaders meet to discuss next move

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Leaders of the main union in the national steel strike are to meet this morning to discuss their next move in the wake of the Commons censure debate and the partial collapse of the sympathy shutdown ordered in private sector steel-making companies.

In response to Mr James Callaghan's remarks about mediation in the nine week strike, officials of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation were last night privately pointing out that the union's general secretary, Mr William Sims, had gone to some lengths never to rule out third-party intervention.

Arbitration has been rejected on the ground that the British Steel Corporation has put unacceptable conditions on such a move, but the Confederation might "in the right circum-

stances" put its proposals for a settlement to a disinterested forum.

That prospect will be examined by the lay executive of the steel workers' union as part of the discussion on the British Steel Corporation's rejection of the confederation's blueprint for peace in the industry.

The confederation leaders are unhappy that their proposition of 20 per cent rises phased over 15 months and tied to substantial productivity concessions have received such scanty attention from the management.

That irritation, taken with the corporation's "ballot about a ballot" being conducted among the industry's 160,000 workforce against bitter union opposition, and the staunching of the hemorrhage in the private steel shutdown over the past two days, is likely to put the steel workers in a militant mood.

Sirs attack on BSC plan to find new jobs

From Peter Hill
Industrial Editor
Paris, Feb 28

British Steel's efforts to help to create new jobs in areas where workers have been made redundant, were attacked yesterday by Mr William Sims, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation.

Mr Sims, whose members are in the third month of a national strike, presented a paper to an international symposium in Paris on the difficulties faced by the world steel industry. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development staged the event.

Government officials and steel industry leaders, including British Steel Corporation executives, were told by Mr Sims that there had to be an awareness that the provision of alternative employment in areas affected by steel closures was much easier planned than carried out.

He said that in spite of good intentions, only 1,850 new jobs had been created to replace more than 5,000 jobs lost in the Ebbw Vale steelworks since the early 1970s.

"Only about three new jobs a week, mostly for women, have been created. At this rate it will be 1992 before every redundant steel worker in this region will be back in employment," he said.

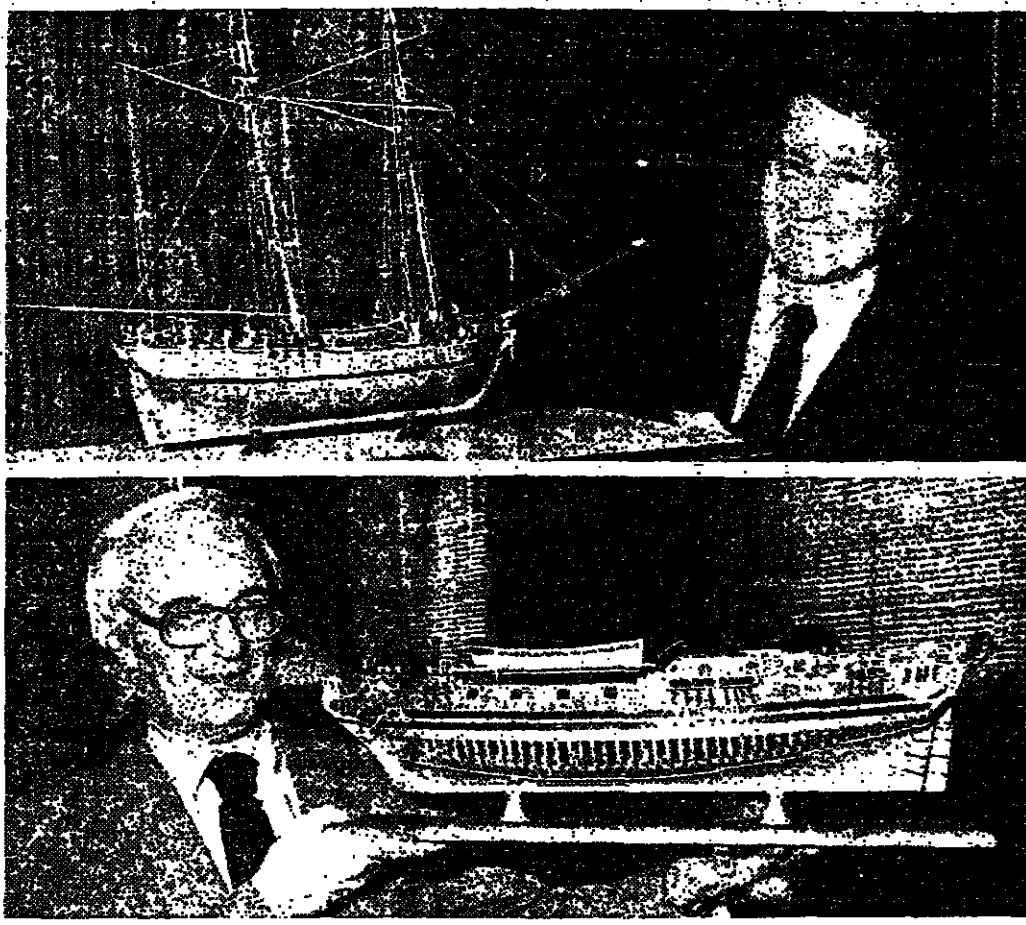
Mr Sims, with TUC support, has been urging the Government to secure more EEC aid to help redundant British steelworkers to find new jobs.

He said at yesterday's meeting that if British Steel went ahead with its planned closure programme, involving the shedding of 35,000 jobs in iron and steelmaking, it would result in something closer to 100,000 lost jobs, when capital equipment affected other sectors of industry.

He urged governments to develop a comprehensive programme of special aids for assisting in the creation of new jobs, and readaptation of areas affected by steel closures.

A paper presented on behalf of Charles Villiger, the BSC chairman, by Mr Gordon Sambrook, the corporation's commercial managing director, the BSC defended the activities of its job creation subsidiary.

The company, BSC (Industry) had operated operations for two years ago and since then more than 3,500 organizations or individuals had been attracted by the facilities the company offered.



Mr G. A. Reed with his model of the schooner Sultana (top) and Mr J. B. Walton with the yacht Caroline, equal winners in a competition organized by the National Maritime Museum. They were at the opening of an exhibition at Greenwich, yesterday.

Transplant surgeons 'broke law'

From Our Correspondent
Leicester

Surgeons who removed a teenage girl's heart for a transplant operation broke the law, Mr Michael Charman, the Leicester coroner said at an inquest in Leicester yesterday on Carol Morris, aged 16.

He added: "They did not have my permission."

Mr Charman had ordered an investigation by senior police officers but they failed to find sufficient evidence for a prosecution.

Miss Morris, of Weir Lane, Houghton on the Hill, Leicester, died in hospital two days after a collision with her home being ridden and a lorry. A verdict of accidental death was recorded.

Mr George Morris, her father, who is a schoolteacher, said that when he and his wife were told that their daughter was near to death they suggested to surgeons that they use any of her organs and made it clear that they could take her heart.

Mr Morris signed a document to that effect but the coroner said: "Under the Human Tissue Act, 1961, they also need my permission, but all I was asked for was a kidney, which I granted."

Mr Charman said that in future transplant operations written permission would have to be obtained from him and pathologists.

Miss Morris's heart was given to Mr Nigel Olney, aged 35, a chiropodist, in an operation at Papworth Hospital, Cambridge. Her kidneys were also used in transplant operations, and the coroner said that the inquest was told that all recipients of the organs were doing well.

Mr Bernard Hargrove, counsel for the surgeons, said that the defect in the carrying out of the transplants, the lives of three people have been enriched and lengthened by the operations.

Police inquiry ordered into clash at prison

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, is asking Scotland Yard to investigate a clash between prison officers and prisoners at Wormwood Scrubs prison, in London, on August 31.

Mr Keith Gibson, the director for the south east region of the prison service, wrote to Mr Whitelaw earlier this week saying he was unable to make progress with his investigations into the incident as prima facie evidence had emerged of criminal assaults by officers on prisoners which should properly be investigated by the police.

The Home Office said last night that prisoners' statements were being handed to the police so that they can decide what investigations to undertake. Mr Whitelaw has decided that prisoners should be able to take legal advice in connection with the incident if they wish.

The prison was injured to 54 prisoners and 11 officers during the trouble, which involved the intervention of MUFIT teams. MUFIT stands for "minimum use of force tactical intervention."

Mr Whitelaw's disclosure of his decision came in a written

reply to a parliamentary question by Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, Labour MP for Ormskirk, who is chairman of two parliamentary bodies, the All-party Penal Affairs Group and the parliamentary Civil Liberties Group. A question had also been asked by Mr Alexander Lyon, MP for York and chairman of the Labour campaign for criminal justice.

Mr Whitelaw said in his reply to Mr Kilroy-Silk that Mr Gibson would report to him on the basis of inquiries he had already made on other aspects of the incident.

Mr Gibson had concluded that the deployment of MUFIT teams to regain control of D wing was fully justified and that prison officers must continue to be trained and equipped to deal with acts of concerted indiscipline by inmates.

Saying he fully endorsed that view, Mr Whitelaw added that he would make a further statement when he had received Mr Gibson's report.

Last night Mr Kilroy-Silk said he was pleased that Mr Whitelaw had ordered a police investigation so that allegations could be thoroughly investigated and dealt with.

£40,000 van raid reward

From Our Correspondent
Reading

Three security guards were still being questioned yesterday by detectives searching for "the kidnap hoax" gang as their company, Group 4 Security, offered a £40,000 reward.

The men had spent the night with police at the homes of two of the guards on Wednesday evening after reports that a colleague's two daughters had been kidnapped.

Det Supt Len Bradley, of

Thames Valley Police, said yesterday: "The men said they were obviously very frightened but beyond that it is very difficult to explain why they did not contact the police."

The guards, who had not been named last night, are aged 23, 25 and 28.

Mr Bradley said that letters arriving at the homes of two of the guards on Wednesday evening said that the two children of the supervisor of Group 4 Security's Mithram depot, in Surrey, were being held hostage.

Hope fades for Ulster assembly this year

From Christopher Thomas
Belfast

The laborious pace of the Ulster constitutional conference has virtually wiped out the Government's hopes of setting up a devolved assembly this year.

Although no formal timetable exists, it was hoped that the conference could be wound up at the end of March to enable legislation to be enacted by the summer recess and an assembly established later in the year.

But the rate of progress means the conference will have to meet in April, although no formal decision has yet been taken, and that will not leave sufficient parliamentary time.

Mr Margaret Thatcher is getting weekly reports on the conference from Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. But the Prime Minister has not had a briefing this week because the conference resumed only on Wednesday.

The official line is that the Government, in preparing its proposals for Parliament, will build on whatever level of agreement may be reached between the three participating parties.

However, the participants have embarked on hard negotiations. It has essentially been a question and answer process over the respective party positions. The real bargaining will come once that has been completed.

The question and answer procedure continued yesterday over the Democratic Unionist Party's submissions on what the official jargon calls the modes of every of a future administration and the role of committees within it.

Under the continuing official embargo on information the details remain a conference secret, but a long sequence of the party's adamant refusal to concede power sharing at executive or Cabinet level was issued publicly by party officers, giving yet more ammunition to those in Ulster who say

the conference has become a charade.

Cynics of the talks point to the direct conflict between the DUP's stance on power sharing and the equally rigid stand of the Social Democratic and Labour Party. Indeed, the SDLP would prefer Whelan to keep the powers of government unless the party had a share in decision making at the highest level.

But the DUP officers' statement adduced 12 reasons for rejecting executive power sharing, which envisaged all parties being involved in government, which meant there could be no effective opposition, without that parliamentary government became a laughing stock, and meaningless.

Power sharing could institutionalize sectarianism in government, it asserted. It might be acceptable in Belgium, but in Northern Ireland it could not operate because one of the parties (the SDLP) did not support the constitutional status of Northern Ireland.

Indeed, it added, this party was working to establish the sovereignty of a foreign state over the territory. To share power in the cabinet with such people would be a recipe for disaster and could not be contemplated by the DUP.

The statement continued: "Power sharing proved not to be the remedy for our troubles in 1974, despite the promises of its advocates. So it is a failed system, to which there should be no return."

The DUP is searching for a system acceptable to the people of Northern Ireland. They have most emphatically rejected power sharing. We must never forget 1974, or the outcome of every of a future administration.

The outcome, of course, has been a resounding victory for the Unionists of differing parties.

Meanwhile, Official Unionist parties, who are boycotting the conference are maintaining a steady flow of speeches hearing scorn on the Stormont deliberations, which at the outset they condemned as a waste of time.

Diagnostic maths tests urged for primary schools

By Our Education
Correspondent

Support for the Government's as yet tentative plans to introduce testing in mathematics and English for all pupils at the age of seven or eight comes today in a Schools Council report on mathematics.

The report, which contains the council's evidence to the Cockcroft committee of inquiry into the teaching of mathematics in schools, recommends that all children in primary schools should be given diagnostic tests at an early age, possibly seven, so that those who are "at risk" mathematically might be identified.

There was a need to develop suitable diagnostic activities to pinpoint the particular difficulties of individual pupils. The screening should match the practical and conversational methods of good infant schools, and should not be simply pencil-and-paper tests, the report says.

The slower pupils in primary schools should be allowed to cover less of the mathematics curriculum than other children. The mathematically gifted should also be identified and given special provision.

"A spread of achievement at the end of primary school

should be thought no more unusual than the accepted spread of achievement at the end of secondary school," the council says.

The recommendations could lead to the reintroduction of "ability" or "dividing children into different ability groups," a practice that most primary schools abandoned long ago.

Commenting on the growing tendency among education authorities to monitor pupils' progress in mathematics through standardized tests at various ages, the council gives a warning against the adoption of relatively unsophisticated tests concentrating on a narrow range of content.

Such tests had been known to cause anxiety among teachers and members of authorities to restrict their view of the mathematics curriculum to those areas that were susceptible to that type of testing, it says.

It also criticizes many of the tests given by employers for taking too restrictive a view of the curriculum and of likely future trends, such as the introduction of the microprocessor.

Schools Council Pamphlet 17: Mathematics: Teaching in Schools (Schools Council, 160 Great Portland Street, London, W1N 6LL).

Mr Powell tells how he got Sir Harold elected

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Secret arrangements made by Mr Enoch Powell, Official Unionist MP for Down, South, and a former Conservative Cabinet minister, to help Mr Harold Wilson and Labour into power in 1974 are disclosed by Mr Powell in the current edition of *Books and Bookmen*.

Reviewing Sir Harold Wilson's latest book, *Final Term: The Labour Government 1974-79*, Mr Powell indicates that he had been in regular touch with Sir Harold during the election of February, 1974, in furtherance of his aim to get Mr Heath and the Conservatives defeated.

It could now be clear that Mr Powell had been in touch with Sir Harold before he made his famous speech on February 23, 1974, at Birmingham, indicating that people who opposed Britain's entry into the EEC should vote Labour.

He is evidently annoyed to find from the book that Sir Harold does not want to know the help which he and the Ulster Unionists gave to him.

Mr Powell, who denounced the February, 1974, election as "fraudulent" and refused to stand as a Conservative, goes even further. "It is doubtful if Harold Wilson would have been Prime Minister for a second time if I had not made him so," he writes.

By that time, Mr Powell, who was Conservative MP for Wolverhampton, South-West, for 22 years, had been elected as an Ulster Unionist for Down, South, but he was never the leader of the Official Unionists at Westminster as that com-

ment in the review might seem to imply.

He says, referring to the period after the October, 1974, election: "It is doubtful if a Labour Administration which had a bare overall majority or none at all would nevertheless have lasted more than five years, by the defection of two Irish republicans, if I had not, as a member of one of the crucial minority parties, believed and acted on the belief that the national interest as well as the interest of Ulster required that a Conservative government should not prematurely supersede."

Mr Powell refused in the February, 1974, election to come out into the open with a direct appeal to Conservatives opposed to the EEC to vote Labour, but there was no doubt the implication of his remarks in the famous speech.

He thought the Labour commitment to a fundamental renegotiation of the terms of entry justified such a vote. He pointed out that the commitment to renegotiation was underwritten by every section of the Labour Party, including those so widely separated politically as Mr Roy Jenkins and Mr Michael Foot.

Whether he was disappointed with the outcome of Labour's renegotiation he does not say in the review.

But he says: "During the earlier general election of 1974 I was in regular communication with Wilson through intermediaries and he knew, and made allowance for the fact that I should endeavour before it ended to give the coup de grace to Edward Heath on the issue of EEC membership."

Building workers' pay claim rejected as 'unrealistic'

Stephenson Feb 28
By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

Building and civil engineering employers are making a concerted effort to improve productivity and reduce absenteeism rates among their employees during pay negotiations which began in earnest yesterday.

"That became the employers' rejection as 'totally unrealistic' a claim which they estimated would add up to 100 per cent to labour costs. They made a 14 per cent offer, coupled with proposals for improved productivity.

The Transport and General Workers' Union, one of the main unions involved in negotiations covering up to 800,000 employees, condemned the offer as "much less than our claim, not even reaching the current inflation level, trying to impose further penalty clauses and not acceptable to the union."

Negotiations are to resume on March 12. There is no immediate prospect of industrial action by the building unions, although Mr Leslie Wood, general secretary of the Union of Construction and Allied Trades and Technicians, the other main union in the talks, has said that the union is in a better financial state than in recent years.

Craftsmen in the industry earn a minimum of £57 a week,

which the employers intend improving to £76.40 a week. But they have rejected a request for full consolidation into basic rates of an £8.40 supplement and the guaranteed minimum bonus of £7.

Instead the employers have agreed to advance the basic rate and scrap the £8.40 supplement while insisting on retaining the guaranteed bonus and increasing it to £11.40 a week.

The employers said that the unions' insistence on consolidation of the guaranteed bonus is inconsistent with their desire to protect their lower-paid members.

Throughout a 10-page reply to the unions' claim, the National Federation of Building Trades Employers and the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors emphasize that more money may be available if improvements in attendance and productivity can be achieved.

In particular the employers are seeking to change the building workers' entitlement to holiday pay if the employee is available for three days in a normal week. On that basis they would be prepared to increase holiday pay by only 2.5 per cent, but if the unions agreed to a five-day availability, holiday pay could be substantially increased.

Control on imports urged

By Our Political Staff

Import penetration has now reached such alarming proportions that it is threatening to destroy the whole of the British economy, Mr John Silkin, the former Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, who is now Opposition spokesman on industry, claims in an article in *Tribune* today.

He says it is the Government's duty to protect Britain's industries while they are being

re-equipped and modernized, by restraining the level of imports.

"It may be that this runs counter to the rules of the Common Market, like the French refusal to import our lamb," he writes. "We should put on import controls and demand the Treaty of Rome, the EEC Commission wanted to move power from the nation states to Brussels, to restrict state aid to industry, and to control public sector subsidies."

Worker paid for doing nothing is awarded £618

From Our Correspondent
Wolverhampton

A man who claimed that for two years he had been paid for doing nothing because of a local authority's "no redundancies" agreement with the unions heard yesterday that the Employment Appeal Tribunal in London had ruled in his favour and he was entitled to be made redundant.

In awarding £618.30p redundancy money to Mr Reginald Morgan, aged 59, of Finchfield, Wolverhampton, the tribunal overturned the decisions of two Birmingham tribunals.

For 10 years Mr Morgan drove a mobile library for Wolverhampton Corporation until the mobile service was withdrawn. He then sought voluntary redundancy, but the authority told him that because of agreements with the unions there were no redundancies.

Mr Morgan said yesterday: "I have fought this on a point of principle. It was a great shock to have what I thought was a secure job until my retirement whisked away from me."

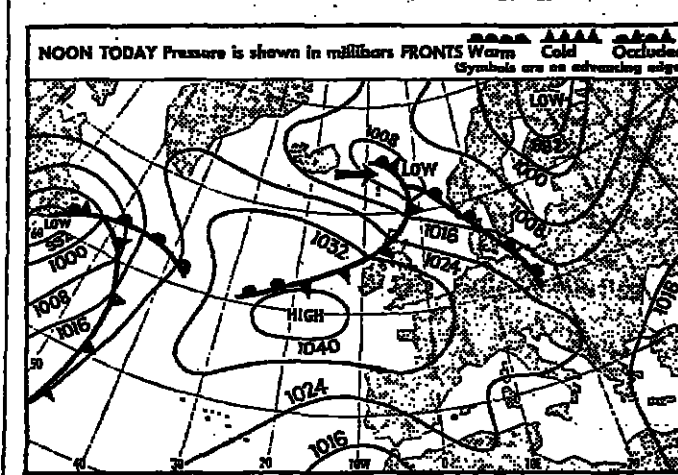
The authority offered him about six other jobs, but they were of a lesser kind, such as labouring or working as a dustman, and he did not want that, he said.

The council still had the no-redundancies agreement with the unions, "so I do not know where this decision leaves them. Over two years they paid me £5,000 of the taxpayers' money for virtually doing nothing."

"I am on the dole now and at my age I think I am likely to remain so. I feel the authority has behaved wrongly in paying me when I had nothing to do."

Wolverhampton corporation said: "We still have non-redundancies agreement with the unions. This man fought to get himself made redundant. But we think his is a hybrid case. We do not think it will happen again."

Weather forecast and recordings



Today
Sun rises: 6.48 am
Sun sets: 5.58 pm
Moon sets: 6.15 am
Moon rises: 4.21 pm

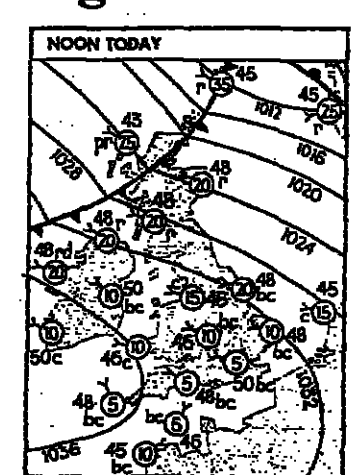
Full Moon: Tomorrow.
Lighting up: 6.9 pm to 6.16 am.

High water: London Bridge, 12.57 am, 6.8m; 1.23 pm, 6.9m. Avonmouth, 6.33 am, 12.3m; 6.55 pm, 10.47 am, 10.37 am, 6.0m; 10.47 am, 6.2m. Hull, 6.32 am, 6.6m; 6.42 pm, 6.8m. Liverpool, 10.39 am, 8.7m; 10.59 pm, 8.7m. 11m=0.3048m 1m=3.2808ft

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:
Pressure remains high to the W of Britain, but a weak frontal trough will cross N areas.

London, East Angles, Central S, SE England, Midlands: Rather cloudy, dry; wind W to NW, later: max temp 8° or 10°C (46° to 50°F).

E, central N, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee: Mostly cloudy, generally dry but



A little drizzle in places; hill fog; wind NW, moderate, locally fresh later: max temp 8° or 10°C (46° to 50°F).

Channel Islands, SW England: Dry, some light intervals; wind N or NW, light to moderate; max temp 8° or 10°C (46° to 50°F).

Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland: Cloudy, a little drizzle in places; hill fog; wind W, light to moderate, veering NW, fresh locally; max temp 8° or 10°C (46° to 50°F).

Aberdeen, central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland: Mostly cloudy, hill fog, occasional rain or drizzle; wind intervals and dry later; wind W, fresh, veering NW, max temp 8° or 10°C (46° to 50°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Staying mostly dry with sunny intervals; some rain from Sea passages: S North Sea; Wind NW, light or moderate; sea slight.

Spirit of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind N, light or moderate; sea slight.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY: MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; s, sun; sn, snow.

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Remarks
Aberdeen	10	W	c	
Argyll	10	W	c	
Belfast	10	W	c	
Birmingham	10	W	c	
Bristol	10	W	c	
Cardiff	10	W	c	
Edinburgh	10	W	c	
Exeter	10	W	c	
Gloucester	10	W	c	
Leeds	10	W	c	
Liverpool	10	W	c	
London	10	W	c	
Manchester	10	W	c	
Newcastle	10	W	c	
Nottingham	10	W	c	
Oxford	10	W	c	
Sheffield	10	W	c	
Southampton	10	W	c	
Stirling	10	W	c	
Swansea	10	W	c	
Torquay	10	W	c	
Wolverhampton	10	W	c	
Wrexham	10	W	c	

Correction

Lord Butler of Saffron Walden was incorrectly described as Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, on February 28. He was succeeded as Master in 1973 by Sir Alan Hodgkin.

£18m sports planned

An £18m sports and leisure centre is being planned for Canterbury by Mr Lew Cartier, the former head of the Cartier supermarket chain.

مكتبة الاس

for Ulster
s year

هكذا من الأجل



These days, car salesmen offer you the options list the way waiters offer you the à la Carte.

Leaving you to choose the fixtures and fittings according to your pocket.

A state of affairs which we find lamentable.

Hence, the appointments, generally found on the options lists of other cars, are already present in the Royale. For example, automatic transmission is standard. (You can have manual, if you prefer, at no additional cost.)

Nor is the car required to embrace a variety of humbler engines.

Only one is offered: a 2.8 litre 6-cylinder unit that accelerates the Royale to a top speed of 115 mph*.

Inside, the furnishings are such that even the most critical of travellers will find little to carp at.

The seats are covered in crushed velour with head

restraints at the rear as well as the front.

You can even adjust the driver's seat for height, as well as for reach and rake.

Additionally the steering wheel can be tilted and the steering is powered.

Those interested in the smaller details will find

central locking for the doors, an electronic boot release, a sliding steel sunroof and radio/stereo cassette player.

While outside are double-skinned metallic paint, alloy wheels and a headlamp wash/wipe system.

In fact, the Royale's specification is so complete that the only option offered is air conditioning.

Your Vauxhall dealer will be glad to demonstrate these virtues to you.

And you'll find he hasn't the slightest inhibition about extolling the car's remarkable value.

SALON PRO 100, COUPE PRO 100. PRICES, CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. INCLUDE CAR TAX & VAT. DELIVERY & NUMBER PLATES EXTRA. *MANUFACTURER'S FIGURES.

Is it vulgar to talk about value in a luxury car?

VAUXHALL
ROYALE

HOME NEWS

BBC announces cuts in education broadcasts, early closing for Radio 3 and expansion plans

By Kenneth Gossling

Five of the 11 BBC orchestras will disappear as a result of cuts of at least £130m in the corporation's spending over the next two years. 28,000 staff were told yesterday in a letter from Mr Ian Trethowan, the BBC Director-General.

The cuts, designed to meet the BBC's £40m deficit, will mean the loss of about 1,500 permanent and temporary jobs.

Educational programmes will be cut by 10 per cent, Radio 3 will close down at 11.15 pm and the 15-minute Radio 2 serial, *Waggoners Walk*, will be dropped, at a saving of £196,000 a year.

Discussions on the cuts have begun between management and unions and the BBC hopes all consultations will be completed in a matter of weeks.

The corporation emphasised yesterday that London, not the regions, would bear the brunt of the cuts. The biggest proportionate cut, of 15 per cent, will be in the central directors. Savings in the regions will total between 5 and 7 per cent.

The result of the consultations will be considered by the board of governors on March 6. The board is expected to say in essence that it broadly approves

the cuts but wants certain elements to be reexamined.

The BBC said yesterday that although it planned to abolish five of its orchestras, it still hoped to broadcast as much music as before.

The Scottish and Northern Ireland, Northern Radio, Midlands Radio, and the London Studio Players are to be disbanded because the BBC feels that it cannot continue to support eleven orchestras. Serious music will still be broadcast, but at less cost.

Mr Trethowan said in his letter that 35 local radio stations will be built by the mid-1980s, covering 90 per cent of England. The local stations will then join up with one of the networks to form a "federal" network.

To help to finance such developments, and to contribute towards the overall economy, the BBC will have to be more frugal in its network radio, £2m on existing local stations, and the remaining English regional radio will be cut back by about £500,000.

Mr Trethowan said the savings needed are "at least" £130m, because there are pay settlements still to come. "The economies now proposed are designed to give us more room, but faced with such uncertainty about potential increases in our

costs, we cannot rule out the possibility of further economies."

About £90m will come from deferring capital projects and by dropping planned developments, including a substantial sum earmarked for equalizing conditions of service. The remaining £40m had to come from cuts in operations.

Many of the 1,500 posts that would go could be saved by abolishing some that were vacant, by early retirement or by natural wastage.

Mr Trethowan said there should be a turnover of at least 6,000 posts over the next two years.

"We cannot be sure, on the other hand, that vacancies will occur in the right places and I cannot rule out some redundancies. How many, it is too soon to say, but we shall make every effort to keep them to a minimum."

The BBC had to provide its audiences with programmes of information, entertainment and minority interest, Mr Trethowan said. Striking a balance was not easy. "We cannot economize without causing some pain."

The first priority was to sustain the effectiveness of BBC television against a richer competitor who in two years' time would have a second, national channel. "Thus one of the few developments we have

left in the budget will enable us to provide a new home-produced drama strand to reduce the number of American imports."

Referring to regional crises, Mr Trethowan said people could always quote examples of petty extravagance in any organization like the BBC, but the television service was run more economically and efficiently than any other of comparable size.

"We shall be looking for a saving of about £12m, a little over 3 per cent, from the London operations and another £12.5m from the three English network production centres."

There would be some cuts in the schedules, which were yet to be worked out. New budgets would be cut by nearly £12.5m, or 3 per cent, and there would be a 10 per cent cut in education broadcasts. Savings in the national regions would be about £5.5m and in the English regions about £2.5m.

In the central directorates engineering, personnel administration and public affairs departments would have cuts of between £7.5m and £8m.

The BBC would spend £110m in the next two years, mainly on replacing worn out or obsolete equipment.

London crime down, but 25% of those arrested were under 16

By David Nicholson-Lord

Serious crime in London showed the first substantial fall for a decade last year, it was announced yesterday. Scotland Yard also disclosed that the strength of the Metropolitan Police was 23,900, its highest yet.

A 2 per cent reduction in indictable crimes recorded in 1979 was described by Mr Gilbert Kelland, assistant commissioner for crime, as encouraging. Particularly significant, he said, were the 4 per cent drops in both robberies and burglaries and the 20 per cent reduction in commercial robberies.

"These are the areas on which a major proportion of our crime-fighting resources have been deployed," he said.

Although 557,378 indictable crimes were committed in London last year, 10,000 fewer than in 1978, when the first slight fall of the 1970s was recorded. As well as in robberies and burglaries, there were reductions in rape (10 per cent), indecent assault on women (40 per cent), car offences (2 per cent), thefts and handling (3 per cent) and fraud (13 per cent).

Only two main categories of crime showed increases: criminal damage (5 per cent) and assault, including murder (12 per cent). Although most of the latter increase was taken up

by minor assaults, there were 179 homicides last year after a fall to 118 in 1978.

The average clear-up rate for all crimes was 29 per cent, a slight drop, and in burglaries it fell to 11 per cent. A quarter of all those arrested in the year were aged between 10 and 16.

Mr Kelland said the recruitment figures were pleasing. At the end of last year, after last summer's police pay rise, the force's strength was almost 600 higher than in 1978. Since then another 1,200 recruits have joined.

Of the increases in assaults and homicides, he said, "in the perspective, 'By world standards London is still a comparatively safe and pleasant capital city in which to live, but clearly our society is becoming increasingly prone to resort to physical violence'."

Evidence of that comes in the 12 per cent increase in occasions on which police were issued with firearms, 6,647 last year, compared with 5,835 in 1978. The central robbery squad also saw an increase in the use of weapons from criminals in 1979, most of them sawn-off shotguns.

To reinforce the point, a paratrooper's carbine rifle made in the United States was produced in a warehouse in the latter increase was taken up

previous day. "It makes a revolver look a little sick," Mr Kelland said.

A feature of the year, he said, was the number of combined central and district CID officers, the Special Patrol Group and the uniform branch.

A worrying trend of raids on building societies had emerged last year but that appeared to have been brought under control by 42 per cent, from £2,700,000 to £1,600,000. Many of the arrests resulted from details given by informants.

Questioned about the Countryman investigation into alleged police corruption, Mr Kelland, who was in charge of a police corruption inquiry seven years ago, said any comparison between the state of the force today and as it was in the early 1970s at the time of *The Times* disclosures was "completely erroneous."

"It is my opinion that the general professionalism and standard of ethics in the CID, despite the small number who may disgrace themselves and the service, has never been better. There is no 'firm within a firm'."

New Welsh drive to revive issue of devolution

From Tim Jones

A new campaign to revive the issue of devolution will be launched in Cardiff tomorrow, just a year after the referendum in which the Welsh people rejected proposed measures to give them a degree of autonomy.

At the same time in Edinburgh the Campaign for a Scottish Assembly will launch its new effort, which is hoped will culminate in a home rule Bill being debated in Parliament.

The supporters of Wales for the Assembly Campaign, who are mainly Labour Party supporters, say in a policy statement that industrial and economic events have shown that Wales has paid a "terrible price" for the decision it made a year ago.

They comment: "The country has been left defenceless against a callous Conservative Government and a rising tide of catastrophes."

The organizers refer to redundancies in the steel industry and the Government's "cynical broken promises" about a Welsh language fourth television channel. Welsh interests are being brushed aside by Whitehall, they say.

"It has only taken a short 12 months to demonstrate how defenceless Wales was left by the referendum decision a year ago," their statement says.

The new campaign, which has

the backing of Mr Michael Foot, Labour's deputy leader, seeks to establish an assembly with full economic and legislative powers.

A policy statement says: "In a Welsh statement, issued like excessive cuts in the Welsh steel industry relative to other areas and the damaging effects of coal imports would be fully aired."

What the crisis has demonstrated is the weakness of the 36 Welsh MPs at Westminster swamped by the Government's large majority.

The campaign seeks an immediate referendum on the issue and claims the outcome would be radically different from that of a year ago.

In Scotland, Mr George Foulkes, Labour MP for Ayrshire, South, has predicted that the new campaign will reawaken the desire of Scots for a measure of self-government. "I am pretty sure we will see the beginning of a phoenix rising from the ashes," he said.

Although it lent its support to the previous Welsh assembly campaign, Plaid Cymru is likely to stay clear of this latest exercise.

Mr Dafydd Williams, the party's general secretary, said the issue was not even on the agenda for the next meeting of his executive. "I feel that most of our members consider that only full self-government is sufficient to tackle the massive economic and social problems of Wales."

Long Rotherham school staffing dispute ended

By Our Education Correspondent

The 18-month dispute over staffing standards in Rotherham schools has ended. The National Union of Teachers announced yesterday that it had agreed to call off the action in view of Rotherham council's decision to reduce the pupil-teacher ratio in primary schools from 24:1 to 22:1 by next January.

The NUT has been refusing to teach classes of more than 30 pupils. It also threatened to strike its members. That not only caused severe disruption, but also led two secondary school headmasters to close their schools just before last half-term. The union said that they were unreasonable.

Rotherham had originally planned to reduce its total teaching force from 1,178 to 1,133 this year. It will now cut only six teachers, to 1,172. The cost of the 38 other teaching jobs will cost the Rotherham rate payers about £175,000 a year.

Raiders rob postman

Two raiders armed with pick-axes and a saw cut their way into a Post Office employee of £22,000 in cash and £4,800 in valuables was delivered at Bootle, in north Merseyside, yesterday. The postman was slightly hurt in the struggle.

Train hits buffers

Eighteen people were taken to hospital after a train ran into buffers at Newcastle upon Tyne Central station yesterday. Injuries in most cases were minor.

CORRECTION

LAMCO PAPER SALES LIMITED

In the Special Report on Finland published on Wednesday, February 27th, the advertisement for the above company should have read:

LAMCO PAPER SALES LIMITED

Representing the 26 member mills of

THE FINNISH PAPER MILLS' ASSOCIATION

Supplying one third of UK imports of paper—newsprint, magazine papers, fine papers, wrappings and specialities.

Clash over untreated milk sales

By Our Agriculture Correspondent

Farmers clashed with dairy-men yesterday about the future of untreated milk, which some health authorities claim causes food poisoning. Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said in a parliamentary written reply that he hoped to announce a decision by mid-March.

Ministers are reviewing a decision by the Labour government more than a year ago to ban sales in 1983 of the milk, which is sold raw and untreated by farmers and is identified by a blue bottle cap.

Mr John Owens, director-general of the Dairy Trade Federation, said at a meeting of the Commons Select Committee on Agriculture: "We believe that the Government should remain firm in its decision to ban untreated milk."

"The job of the National Farmers' Union is to protect its members, many of whom are producer-retailers of milk who obtain a premium of an extra 1p a quart for their untreated milk, which is totally unjustified," he added. That between 1963 and 1972 there were 267 outbreaks of salmonella food poisoning, of which 51 were associated with untreated milk, better than the 100 cases of the milk committee of the NFU, appealed to the select committee to be allowed to reply to evidence given to it earlier.

He rejected evidence about health risks given by the Dairy Trade Federation.

"The statistics have certainly not been produced to our satisfaction," he said. "I speak as one who actually gets into the pit and milks cows."

Chef fined £1,000 for road deaths

James Gaffney, aged 23, a chef, of Paterson Street, Motherwell, Lanarkshire, was admitted causing the deaths of three people in a road accident near Oban, Argyll, last year by reckless driving was fined £1,000 at Oban Sheriff Court yesterday.

He was also disqualified from driving for four years and fined a further £50 and banned for three months for driving without insurance. Sheriff Peter Hamilton said: "You will pay the fines at £10 a week, with alternative of 12 months' imprisonment."

Eight injured in fog accidents

Eight people were injured, seriously, in accidents in fog during the morning rush-hour on motorways in north Merseyside yesterday.

In one multiple accident, which closed a two-mile stretch of the M62, 35 vehicles were involved. Police said most drivers had ignored the 50 mph fog speed restriction.

Bail for patient

Mrs Rose Pentelov, aged 59, a patient at St Crispian mental hospital, Dunston, Northamptonshire, was granted bail yesterday by Northampton magistrates on condition that she be kept under the supervision of the hospital and the manslaughter of Mrs Ella Mansfield, aged 69. A condition of bail is that she lives at Broadmoor Hospital.

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Five peers went leaping in Park Lane, London yesterday to publicize the Order of St John "leap year frog" competition, by which it is hoped to raise £100,000. From the left they are: Lord Ilchester and Lord Redesdale taking a spill, Lord Marchwood and Lord Kimberley (bending) and Lord Atlee.

Leak of radioactive water at Windscale may have started eight years ago

By Nicholas Timmins

The leak of radioactive water from a silo at Windscale in which cladding from spent nuclear fuel is stored may have started in 1972, a report from the Health and Safety Executive said yesterday. But the leak, discovered in 1976, is at present of no danger to workers on the site or to the public, the report said.

Attempts to stop the leak, which is seeping about 100 gallons of water a day into the silo, would not be justified unless it increases or the level of radioactivity in the water rises considerably.

Nevertheless, British Nuclear Fuels Ltd has been asked by the executive to make contingency plans to seal the silo from the inside and to construct a curtain wall round the contaminated silo. Such a wall would have to be sunk 25 metres down to the bedrock and would take two years to build.

The state-owned fuel company has also been required to develop methods of emptying the silo and of replacing the cladding as soon as it is stripped from spent fuel to avoid the need for prolonged storage in future.

BNFL said yesterday that work was in hand to meet the various requirements. A plant to process the cladding should be operating by the late 1980s.

It is thought that most of the radioactivity that can leak from the silo, about 50,000 curies, has already done so. It is estimated that it would take four to six years for the most mobile form, tritium, to reach the site boundary, by which time it would not be a hazard, the report says.

Most of the activity, in the form of caesium and strontium, is bound up in the silo, which is a few metres of the silo, and would take 2,000 and 500 years respectively to travel to the boundary site. By that time it would have decayed. BNFL is to study ways to ensure it does not move faster.

Because the level of radioactivity in the silo is high, the report says that stopping the leak and clearing the contaminated soil "will certainly be time consuming and costly."

It will take at least four years to develop a safe way of removing the material in the silo. Methods of disposing of it will also have to be developed, so that it would be "several years after that" before the silo was emptied.

No decision has yet been taken on what to do with the contaminated soil, but its removal would be "a formidable task." Specially designed remote-controlled excavators would be needed, with heavily shielded containers for storing the soil.

The report says that sealing the leak from the outside is considered impractical, and would expose workers to high levels of radioactivity. Sealing it from the inside might make retrieval of the waste more difficult.

Discovery of the leak, shortly before the Cabinet decided to set up the public inquiry into Windscale's expansion plans, was seen as the final factor that tipped the Labour Government in favour of the 100-day long inquiry.

Barlow call for report on 'dirty books'

By Kenneth Owen

Sir William Barlow, chairman of the Post Office, yesterday called for a report on the provision of a "buyer's guide" to dirty books, among the pages available to subscribers to the corporation's Prestel videodata service.

Details of the pages, which are provided by Mills & Allen Communications, London, were disclosed in *The Times* on Wednesday. They give a brief guide to "dirty magazines, specialist magazines and a list of five Soho bookshops."

Sir William said: "I am disappointed that an information provider has used Post Office Prestel facilities to display material which could be offensive to children and to give parents of such children the same rights as other parents on the choice of school and appeal against allocation."

As reported today in *The Times*, Education Secretary Mr Mark Carls, QC, Secretary of State for Education and Science, is expected to make a brief statement in the Commons early next week, welcoming the approach of the Warnock committee towards the education of the handicapped and announcing the Government's decision to introduce a short Bill in the next parliamentary session.

Under the provisions of the Education Bill, now on its way through the House of Lords, parents of children in special schools or in need of special educational treatment are excluded from clauses giving parents the right to express a

New Bill on education of handicapped children

By Diana Geddes

The Government is to introduce a Bill to give effect to some of the recommendations of the Warnock report on the education of handicapped children and to give parents of such children the same rights as other parents on the choice of school and appeal against allocation.

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Son worked for 31 years without wages, court told

From Our Correspondent

Mr Coe, aged 51, who still works the 26-acre farm as a smallholding, told the court: "I worked from early in the morning until 10 or 11 at night for no wages. The first time I went out was when I was 22 and my mother gave me half a crown."

He considered leaving several times but his father told him he would forfeit his right to the farm if he did.

Mr Ronald Walker, for Mr Coe, said: "The plaintiff's case is that he devoted a substantial part of his life to working on this land on the basis of promises that the land would pass to him. He left school at 14, £1,000 to his wife and three children. But only three tenths of the farm was left to Mr Coe, with his sisters sharing the rest."

Mr Coe's father Jesse, described as a "real Victorian," left £5,000 to his widow and three children. But only three tenths of the farm was left to Mr Coe, with his sisters sharing the rest.

The hearing continues today.

Interests of NHS staff 'ignored'

By John Roper

Failure to get things right in the Government's discussion document on changes in the structure of the National Health Service, *Patients First*, would result not in patients first but chaos and patients second, Mr Alan Giles, chairman of a Royal College of Nursing conference, said in London yesterday.

The conference, one of a series considering the proposals to abolish area health authorities and bring decision-making closer to the patient, was not attended, as others have been, by Mr Patrick Teale, Secretary of State for Social Services, or Dr Gerard Vaughan, Minister of State for Health.

Miss Catherine Hall, general secretary of the college, said they had not invited a minister, a doctor or an administrator to speak because their view was that nurses, who were nearly half the staff of the NHS, should take a hard look at the proposals on their own.

Government thinking on *Patients First* had been well, if not always consistently, proposed, she said.

Giving her own view (the college has yet to formulate its comments) Miss Hall criticized the document as superficial and glossing over the interests of staff.

The Government had made no detailed proposals about what would happen to staff. Procedures for filling posts, appeals machinery, protection provisions and early retirement and redundancy were still matters for specialists.

There was a feeling of insecurity for many and, remembering the difficulties of the 1974 NHS reorganization, was indefensible. It was proposed that much of what had been done in 1974 should be undone, and staff morale, affected by unprecedented pressure as cash limits bit harder and deeper, was suffering.

Former soldier dies of 1944 war wounds

From Our Correspondent

Birmingham Coroner, yesterday recorded a verdict of death by war wounds on Mr Robert Edward Crowe, aged 54, of Chesham Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham, who died in hospital this month.

Mr Crowe was serving with the Black Watch in northern France in 1944 when he was hit in the spine by shrapnel fragments, his brother, Mr Stanley Crowe, told the inquest.

Dr E. L. Jones, a consultant pathologist, said Mr Crowe had died of a paralysed intestine caused by the injury.

Mother dead, two daughters saved

Mr Philip Jarvis, of Brynmawr Road, Ebbw Vale, Gwent, rescued his two daughters, aged eight and ten, but was unable to save his wife in a fire at their terrace home yesterday.

Four firemen were injured as they searched the burning house for Mrs Lorraine Jarvis, aged 31.

Judgment deferred on Ladbroke's plea

Judgment was reserved by the High Court yesterday on Ladbroke's appeal against the Gaming Board and the Playboy Club.

The Ladbroke companies argued that the Crown Court judge's decision refusing to renew the licences did not, in law, constitute a judicial order which could be reviewed by the High Court.

Alternatively, Mr Stuckey said, if the transcript of the judge's remarks constituted an order, it contained no clear error of law justifying the court's interference. It was clear from what the judge said that the restructuring of the two companies had been considered by the Crown Court.

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Bill to 'clip wings of MI5' likely to be killed but sponsor seeks new controls on service

By Peter Hennessy
A private member's Bill intended to "clip the wings of MI5" in the words of its sponsor, Mr. Robin Cook, Labour MP for Edinburgh, Central, was published yesterday. It is only the second attempt in almost 20 years to make the Security Service accountable to Parliament.
Mr. Cook's Security Service Bill, which reaches its second reading stage today, would restrict the activities of MI5 to counter foreign espionage, the detection and prevention of subversion and terrorism.
The Director General of MI5 would be required to present an annual report to Parliament on the number of staff employed by his department, its budget, the number of files on its register, the number of applications for permission to institute telephone taps, install electronic "bugs" and intercept mail.
For the first time MI5 would need to seek permission for "bugging" responsibility for monitoring it, and the interception of telephone conversations, now a matter for the Home Secretary, with authorization of mail interception, would be given to a High Court judge.
Mr. Cook expects the Government to kill the Bill today by the simple expedient of instructing a whip to shout "object!" once Mr. Cook has moved it.
"But we are putting it forward to provide a focus for debate on how the Security Service can be brought under control," he explained.
The Bill has all-party support. Its sponsors include a single Conservative MP, Mr. Jonathan Aitken, two Liberals, Mr. Alan Beith and Mr. Clement Freud, and a number of Labour MPs, including Mr. James Wellbeloved. Under the Secretary of State for the Royal Air Force, Mr. James Callaghan's Administration.
Mr. Cook pointed out that the Civil List and Secret Service Act, 1782, limited the cost of secret service activities to the United Kingdom to £10,000 in any one year. MI5, therefore, had been behaving illegally for years, from its foundation in 1809 until its repeal in 1978, when the 1782 statute was repealed. Its annual budgets were certainly in excess of that sum.
Mr. Cook's Bill would provide a legal basis for the existence of MI5 as well as restricting its scope. In addition to its annual report to Parliament, further scrutiny would be imposed by a quinquennial review of personal files held

Amendment to Corrie Bill appals opponents

By Annabel Ferriman
The opponents of the Abortion (Amendment) Bill are determined to defeat it in Parliament today because the amended Bill will not allow for the abortion of a handicapped foetus.
The Home Secretary, the minister responsible for MI5, would also be required to appoint a privacy adviser to safeguard the interests of those on whom files were kept.
"MI5 spy on foreign agents, who are fair game, but the bulk of their files are on British citizens," Mr. Cook explained.
In preparing his Bill, Mr. Cook was assisted by the Outer Circle Policy Unit, a small "think tank" funded by the Rowntree Trust. It was drafted by Andrew Nichol, a lecturer in law at the London School of Economics.
Mr. Cook hopes that the work of the Labour Party's national executive committee's security services study group will succeed in placing a commitment to a security service Bill in the election manifesto of a future Labour government.
In the meantime, he will press the Prime Minister to authorize an official inquiry into the work of MI5, especially its electronic surveillance activities, whose potential scope has advanced substantially with the development of new technology.
The other clauses which will disappear are those breaking the financial links between counselling agencies and abortion clinics and the one strengthening the doctors and nurses' right not to take part in abortion operations.
All that will remain are the sections referring to the upper time limit, which has been amended to 24 weeks from 20 weeks in the original Bill, and the section relating to the criteria for abortion.
The latter section was being discussed when the debate was adjourned on February 15. The Bill sought to tighten the criteria, making it harder for women to obtain abortions, but there was a batch of amendments aimed at reversing its effects.
The debate on the criteria is expected to last about half an hour this morning, which would be the last time the Bill is discussed before it is likely to fail.
Mr. Corrie tabled the amendment because today is the last day outside for the Bill to be passed before the original Bill passed today it is likely to fail.
A shortened, one-clause Bill, reducing the upper time limit for abortion from 28 weeks to 24 weeks and strengthening the criteria, is thought to have a greater chance of success than his original Bill.
The Coordinating Committee in Defence of the 1967 Abortion Act said yesterday: "We are absolutely appalled at the way Mr. Corrie has done a hatchet job simply to get it through, without taking into consideration the things that the amendment would leave out."
The parliamentary opponents of the Bill are making an amendment which will also remove all the clauses after Clause 1 but would put in a new, strengthened Clause 2, allowing abortions up to 28 weeks for women carrying handicapped fetuses or to save the mother's life.
The British Medical Association, which has strenuously opposed the Bill, said yesterday: "The BMA is appalled at the drastic implications of this amendment, which goes far beyond the original intention of the Corrie Bill."
"The Bill as it now stands would mean that a doctor could go to prison for ending the pregnancy of any woman known to be carrying an abnormal baby."

New social security advisory body may be empowered to act without minister

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent
The Government indicated yesterday that it may be prepared to amend the Social Security Bill at the report stage to give the new Social Security Advisory Committee statutory powers to pursue issues without waiting for a request from the secretary of state.
The concession was made by Mrs. Lynda Chalker, Under-Secretary of State for Social Security, during the committee stage of the Bill yesterday.
Labour MPs pressed a series of amendments designed to give the new committee the kind of freedom and independence enjoyed by the Supplementary Benefits Commission, which the new committee will replace.
The amendments, which were defeated, were designed to give the new committee independence to investigate issues and publish reports without resort to the secretary of state, and to have a statutory right of access to ministers and officials at all levels.
The commission's view of what the new body should do has been set out in a letter to the chairman, Professor David Donnison, by Mr. Andrew Bennett, Labour MP for Stockport North, after a meeting with opposition members of the committee.
Professor Donnison said that the new committee should be drawn from a variety of fields, broadly representative of relevant interests in the community, but outside bodies should not be allowed to "nominate their own placemen".
It should "explicitly be given freedom to investigate any area which it considers to be relevant to its responsibilities. This independence should incorporate the freedom to initiate inquiries entirely of the committee's own, and without need for a reference from the secretary of state."

Protest over courts on Sundays

The Bail (Scotland) Act, which enables sheriffs and district courts in Scotland to sit on Sundays, drew protests yesterday.
"This is an intrusion on the Christian Liberty of people who regard Sunday as the Lord's day," Mr. Clement Graham, clerk to the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland, said. "We have heard nothing about this move until now."
The Act received the Royal Assent on January 31. It will come into effect by the end of March.
"I'm sure this news will provoke violent reaction from members of my society," Mr. John McBride, Scottish organising secretary of the Lord's Day Observance Society, said. "We will do all in our power to ensure this measure is not used."

Tote chief's assurance on Royal Ascot dividends

Mr. William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, has been assured by Mr. Woodrow Wyatt, chairman of the tote, that he altered only one dividend at the Royal Ascot horse race meeting in 1976.
That is stated in a letter by Mr. Whitelaw to Mr. John Golding, Labour MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme, who wrote to the Home Secretary asking for an inquiry into persistent rumours that the dividends were altered on Mr. Wyatt's instructions.
Mr. Golding, a member of the Commons Select Committee that inquired into the tote, and present chairman of the Commons Home Affairs Committee, made it clear in his letter to Mr. Whitelaw that he accepted that Mr. Wyatt had legal authority to alter the dividends.
Mr. Whitelaw said Mr. Wyatt asked to be informed of all the tote dividends on the Wednesday and Thursday of the Royal Ascot meeting in 1976 before they were announced because he had only recently taken over as chairman and wished to be fully in touch with tote arrangements.
Mr. Whitelaw concedes that this fact may have led to rumours that Mr. Wyatt altered a number of dividends.
But he says, Mr. Wyatt had assured him that the only alteration he made was to raise the dividend on the fourth race on June 17 after the withdrawal of the favourite and the need to repay punters who had backed it.
Mr. Wyatt had obtained a statement from tote employees concerned at the time to the effect that no other dividend was altered. "In the circumstances, I see no grounds for instituting an inquiry into this matter," Mr. Whitelaw says.
Mr. Golding said yesterday that he hoped the categorical statement by the Home Secretary would end the rumours.

Minsk link cut

The Labour-controlled Nottingham City Council yesterday decided to cut links with its twin city of Minsk as a protest against Soviet aggression in Afghanistan.

Airport café reopens

British Airports Authority yesterday reopened terminal 1 catering facilities at Heathrow, after a strike by catering staff on Monday for sterilization after a young woman kitchen worker contracted typhoid abroad.

Damages of £86,693 for man paralysed at work

A man of 34 who was said to be paralysed below the waist and will spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair after an accident at work was awarded £86,693 damages by Lord Cowie in the Court of Session in Edinburgh today.
Mr. Hamish Park, a plant fitter, of Carnduff, Upper Seashell, near Dunfermline, had sued his employers, Tractor Shovel (Contracts) Ltd, of Alva Street, Edinburgh, and I. H. Buchanan, trading as Hamilton Plant, of Kirkcubbin, jointly for £150,000.
The judge absolved his employers and awarded the damages against I. H. Buchanan.
The accident happened in April 1974, at Ravenscraig steelworks, when Mr. Park's company was clearing topsoil on a 50-acre site for a marshall yard. A plant fitter assisting played by Buchanan was operating a lift when he was struck by Park, knocking him to the ground.
The judge held that the other man's negligence in operating the lift caused the accident, and the job caused the other man's negligence. He rejected a claim that Mr. Park contributed to the accident by his own negligence.

Dr Owen backs action on teaching hospitals

By Our Health Services Correspondent
Dr David Owen, former Labour Minister of Health, said yesterday that it was vital that the new Health Planning Consortium reports rationalizing health care services and medical teaching facilities in London should go through.
Expenditure on medical education was increasing as a proportion of the budget of London University and that could not be allowed to go unchecked, he told a luncheon of the Medical Journalists' Association.
Much was being made of the proposals to close Westminster Hospital medical school and run down the hospital. Other institutions should have been closed years ago.
Dr Owen said that he had held the view that the key to resource allocation in the National Health Service lay in the money given to London institutions.
The redistribution of resources resulting from the Consortium was one of the most important things done for the NHS. Its concept was right, and concentration on the redistribution of NHS resources was right.

British help for Mark Thatcher

Mr. Mark Thatcher, son of the Prime Minister, yesterday referred to the controversy over an earlier suggestion of sponsorship from a Japanese company and Mr. Paul Raymond, club owner. He was speaking at Brands Hatch after launching a £40,000 programme for him to race in cars sponsored only by British companies.
He said that he had discussed his actions with his mother and there was no acrimony.
Brands Hatch is providing cars for him to race this season, while four companies, a Yorkshire wool firm, an Essex trailer company, Talbot Cars, and Kelly, the jobs agency, will provide the finance.

Law Report February 28 1980

Right of minority to sue on behalf of company

Prudential Assurance Co Ltd v Newman Industries Ltd and Others
By Mr Justice Vinelott
[Judgment delivered February 18 and 19]
Lordship held that Prudential Assurance Co Ltd, as a minority shareholder in Newman Industries Ltd, was entitled under the rule in *Foss v Harbottle*, to sue for compensation on behalf of the company. The rule in *Foss v Harbottle* is that a shareholder is not entitled to sue for compensation on behalf of the company for a wrong done to the company, if the wrong was done by the board of directors, and the company has not taken any steps to redress the wrong. The rule is subject to two exceptions: (1) if the wrong was done by the board of directors, and the company has not taken any steps to redress the wrong; (2) if the wrong was done by the board of directors, and the company has not taken any steps to redress the wrong.
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WEST EUROPE

M Barre wins vote on censure motions

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Feb 28

The Socialist and Communist motions of censure on the general policy of the Government were predictably rejected in the National Assembly last night. They received 199 votes in both cases, far short of the 246 required to secure their adoption. The vote came at the close of a debate in which the members of the government majority parties refused to take part.

The Assembly has nothing left on its agenda for the rest of the extraordinary session which was called to enable the Senate to vote on the Agriculture reorientation Bill which the Lower House adopted on December 15.

M Raymond Barre stuck to his economic guns with a characteristic assurance unshaken even by the exceptionally high price index rise for January of 1980, the highest monthly rate for 20 years, and the gloomy forecasts of the National Institute for Statistics. These show a slowing down of economic activity, a rise of 100,000 in the number of the unemployed, and a foreign trade deficit of 15,000 million francs (£1,666m) over the next six months.

The Opposition painted a catastrophic picture of the situation, but the Government's slight ray of hope, long as the present Government and majority remain in power.

Both the Prime Minister and the National Institute for Statistics agree that the impact of the latest oil price increases has yet to make itself fully felt on the French economy. The national minimum wage is expected to rise by 3.4 per cent from Saturday to 13.37 francs an hour, or 2,326 francs a month, for a 40-hour week. It was raised by 4.1 per cent only last December.

The Government yesterday implicitly acknowledged that the rise in prices had an impact on purchasing power by deciding to increase the salaries of government officials by 2.5 per cent from the same date.

The reality of the economic crisis is the subject of the press today and is beginning to dawn on public opinion, in spite of M Barre's contention that France was the only country in the West where the purchasing power of wage earners last year had not declined but had even improved.

The crisis is a favourite stick with which the Opposition tries to beat the Government, which, as M François Mitterrand, the Socialist leader, claimed yesterday, had nothing to say in reply to what he was the fault of "oil and fatality".

M Gaston Defferre, the chairman of the Socialist parliamentary group, asserted last night that "the flare up in gold and property prices is one of the many signs of Frenchmen's distrust towards the currency and the Government".

But the fact is that the franc has not been in better shape for a long time, and abroad M Barre's reputation as an economist has never been higher, as recent articles in the American press demonstrate. His policy has even been recommended as a pattern for the United States to follow. It is certain that if he were to leave office, confidence in the franc would collapse.

Yesterday's debate was dominated by economic matters. But policies were not completely absent. Both M Georges Marchais, the Communist leader, and M Mitterrand used the occasion to pursue the controversy between their two parties which has grown in violence and intensity in the past few months.

M Marchais underlined the Communists' determination to obtain in a left-wing government the place which they considered to be theirs by right. This was a reply to recent suggestions by M Mitterrand and M Michel Rocard, his challenger within the Socialist Party, that their party should cooperate, a minority Socialist government might be the only answer if the left won the presidential election in 1981. The prospect, however, appears more remote than ever barring the kind of economic catastrophe which the left has been predicting ever since M Barre came to power three and a half years ago.

M Mitterrand, for his part, insisted that the Communists were the objective allies of President Giscard d'Estaing.

While the West debates its response to Soviet intervention Bonn gives aid to Nato's weak link Rescue operation to save Turkey

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, Feb 28

While the West still debates its response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, West Germany is already working on its main contribution - massive financial and military aid to strengthen the most vulnerable Nato partner, Turkey.

Herr Hans-Martin Genscher, the Finance Minister, is organizing a large international financial rescue operation for the bankrupt Turkish economy, with West Germany raising the lion's share. Bonn is also expected to provide weapons, in particular modern German-built tanks, and other material for the badly equipped Turkish Army.

With this help for their long-time friends the Germans are putting into practice their principle of division of labour in the Western reaction to Afghanistan. Unenthusiastic about punitive measures such as sanctions, they believe each country should play a role in helping the West. The aid is not to be available at once. The Turks need ready money, in particular to buy oil to get their factories going again. At present Turkey's industry is being strangled by about one-third of its capacity.

The Germans also believe that the first aid will be of little

lasting use if it is not followed up by medium-term help over the next few years.

Herr Genscher is also seeking means of helping Turkey to postpone paying foreign debts and to provide credits from private banks.

He expects to raise the money from the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, private banks, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and other governments, including Saudi Arabia.

The Germans concede that Turkey would have to be under normal circumstances, but the Afghan crisis has made its plight particularly serious and urgent for the rest of the Western alliance. They fear severe inflation will bring political and social instability.

Turkey's strategic position on Nato's south-west flank near the area made insecure by the Afghan invasion and its potential for Islamic religious unrest, make it essential that the country is put back on a sound economic basis and securely linked to the West.

the achievements of their detente policy.

To critics in foreign newspapers that the West German attitude is feeble, officials retort that when it comes to signing cheques their contribution to the West's response will probably cost much more than anyone else's.

How much this will be has not yet been decided. But since the Turks feel they need some \$1,500m (£550m) just to get the economy moving again, and much more in medium-term aid, since government sources here expect West Germany to shoulder even more than the 40 per cent it contributed to the last rescue operation, the sum will clearly be enormous.

The key element in Herr Genscher's efforts is speed. If the aid is to be effective, it must be available at once. The Turks need ready money, in particular to buy oil to get their factories going again. At present Turkey's industry is being strangled by about one-third of its capacity.

The Germans also believe that the first aid will be of little

Nazi victims still claim from fund

By Arthur Osman

The West German Embassy in London is still receiving one or two compensation claims a month from British victims of Nazi persecution who missed applying to a fund that closed 14 years ago.

An official said that any such claim would be sent to Bonn for consideration but said it was impossible to indicate how it would be received.

In 1964 the West German Government made a fund of 100 million marks available for the compensation of British victims of Nazi persecution. It closed in 1978, having used up its money. Since 1971, the Bonn Government has not accepted new claims.

Mrs. Patricia Clough, aged 48, of Moseley, Birmingham, was advised yesterday to write a claim. She said that she, like many others, had not known of the 1964 fund. She learned about it two years ago.

Mrs. Clough's family was Jewish, was aged 12 when she was taken from Budapest with her mother, who was later killed. She believes that her father, who had been taken earlier for forced labour, died in Bergen-Belsen in Auschwitz and Mauthausen concentration camps until released by the Americans in 1945. She was returned to Hungary as an orphan, spent long spells in hospital and escaped after the 1956 uprising.

An official of the Jewish Refugee Committee in London said: "Unfortunately Mrs. Clough did not keep in touch with us when we circulated news of the fund. She would have been entitled to compensation."

Dr F. E. Gumpert of the United Restitution Office in London which has specialized in German compensation for more than 30 years, said: "Hundreds were too late in applying for compensation. Some told us they had missed the time limit. The West German Government is however setting up a new fund, reportedly of 400m marks (£110m) for late claimants."

New Menten trial begin on May 13

From Our Correspondent
Amsterdam, Feb 28

A Rotterdam court today set May 13 for the beginning of a new trial of Mr. Pieter Menten, aged 80, the millionaire and art collector accused of being involved in the mass execution of Jews during the wartime German occupation of Poland.

The court rejected an application on behalf of Mr. Menten for a postponement of the trial to allow a further investigation into his mental faculties.

On February 5 the Supreme Court quashed an earlier ruling by the Rotterdam court that Mr. Menten was insane.

The court now ruled that there were insufficient grounds to conclude that Mr. Menten was insane within the terms defined in the Supreme Court ruling.

France puts life back into health system

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Feb 28

The French national health system is responding to the drastic recovery programme started last July by M Jacques Barrot, the Minister of Health. It involved both cuts in spending and an increase in contributions.

But it was not yet time for celebrations, the minister said: "The effort to put the accounts right must be pursued."

Yet the improvement is undeniable. Instead of a deficit of about £2,450m, the health system shows a broad balance of accounts for 1979 and, if the trend continues, will record a surplus for 1981.

The increase in contributions by one percentage point and the weather both played a part. A mild winter seemed to preclude any widespread epidemic of influenza.

But the increase in contributions was not the only factor. The increase in the second half of 1979 was 16.8 per cent, compared to an increase of 18.9 per cent for the first half of the year and 20.3 per cent for the second half of 1978.

Hospital costs fell by over 1 per cent over the same period last year.

But the big breakthrough is in all non-hospital health costs, which declined from 16.6 per cent to 13 per cent in the second half of last year. The Minister praised the attitude of physicians who had obviously cut down on prescriptions, one of the long-standing causes of the deficit.

M. Barrot made it clear that

there was no question of extending the increase in health contributions beyond the projected date of January, 1981.

But there was also no question, in spite of the improvement in social security finances, of going back on the decision taken last July to make the health system more responsible, by compelling them to meet 5 to 6 per cent of all health charges, out of their own pockets.

The exception is hospital charges which will continue to be fully refunded.

He announced two further measures: the creation in each hospital of a medical committee to assess treatment with a view to ensuring more efficient management and increasing control over the costs of hospital care.

M. Barrot refused to comment on the current negotiations between the managers of the different national health funds and the representatives of medical unions on a new national convention for the next five years.

They failed to agree two days ago and postponed their discussions until March 4. The kind of agreement they reach will have a decisive effect on the development of health costs.

The Minister did not exclude an increase in medical fees, which is one of the main bones of contention in the negotiations, provided a new convention was worked out.

He categorically ruled out the abandonment of the present system of liberal medicine.

French devise experimental plan for quieter life

From Ian Murray
Paris, Feb 28

If a noise annoys a citizen of Blois or Toulouse or Aix-les-Bains for that matter—there now is an official medium to consider the complaint. In a programme being instituted by the Government, these three cities are the guinea pigs in a scheme that aims at ending the acrimony that can arise from unheeded complaints.

In all 25 anti-noise measures were agreed at yesterday's Cabinet meeting, although the draft of a law to give them force is not complete. The measures are aimed mainly at reducing the decibels generated by traffic, aircraft and household equipment. Grants are to be made for sound insulating dwellings.

Traffic has been regarded as the main enemy of a quiet life. Between June next year and October, 1982, vehicles in France will have to emit between 20 and 50 per cent less noise, to conform with new EEC directives.

The number of permitted decibels for each vehicle is to be entered on the log book and there will be a restriction on motorcycles which permitted levels based on acceleration rather than on idling speeds.

About 50m francs (about £5m) is to be spent on "soundproofing" of roads, and grants are to be made for soundproofing of houses.

Aircraft landing charges will be based not only on the aircraft's seating capacity but on the amount of noise it makes. Tighter controls on the hours for take-off and landing will be enforced on noisier aircraft.

A quarter of a million leaflets are to be circulated in schools explaining the problems of noise to children.

According to M Michel d'Ornano, the Minister of the Environment, who has devised the proposals, "no tax, can be levied to give us silence. Over you cannot eradicate noise, which is the corollary of all human activity. But to master it, it is necessary to act against it all the time and in all ways."

made for similar projects on other main roads. Road planners will be required to take account of sound nuisances when they plan new routes. Police anti-noise squads are to be given special training.

Powered mowers and saws will have to be equipped with silencers. Electrical equipment such as washing machines and vacuum cleaners will have to carry a certificate showing how many decibels they emit and models exceeding certain limits will not be allowed to be imported or sold.

Grants for soundproofing of houses are to be increased from 20 per cent to 30 per cent.

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The new law made the breakdown of a marriage the sole criterion for a divorce.

One year's separation is now sufficient ground if both partners want the divorce and three years if only one partner has made the application.

Most of the objections to the law came from husbands contesting its ruling that the wealthier partner had to provide alimony for the rest of his life if the other was unable to support himself. No women have lodged objections.

OVERSEAS

Flow of Rhodesia voters dwindles as heavy rains create difficulties in second polling day

Salisbury, Feb 28—After yesterday's impressive start, the turnout at Southern Rhodesia's election fell drastically today because of heavy rain.

In the remote bushlands, rain made road travel almost impossible and airports unusable. Election officials said the peak rainy season was beginning to hamper the election. Mobile polling booths had to be used in some regions, they said.

Tomorrow, the final day of voting for 80 black seats in the 100-seat parliament of independent Zimbabwe, the polls will be taken in the classified assembly camps. Twelve such camps across the country are housing some 22,000 armed guerrillas pending the election outcome.

The guerrillas are expected to vote 100 per cent for their leaders, Mr Robert Mugabe and his former co-leader, Mr Joshua Nkomo.

Mr Mugabe's sudden departure last night to meet President Machel in Mozambique, caused anger and puzzlement today. British officials said that all the main contenders for the Zanu (PF) Front, Mr Mugabe is rated the top one—had been asked to remain on hand for consultations with Lord Soames, the Governor.

Tension is still running high in the camps, and is likely to increase as political developments unfold, British officials said.

Though his Zanu (PF) party is expected to emerge as the biggest single party in Parliament, Mr Mugabe may not necessarily form the first government of Zimbabwe.

An alternative increasingly mentioned in British circles is a coalition between Mr Nkomo and Bishop Muzorewa, leader of the United African

National Council.

Heavily-armed troops and police patrol the streets of Salisbury, and shopkeepers, and office, caretakers have been urged to look out for bombs.

Several streets in the city centre were sealed off by police today after two Africans were seen to leave a cardboard box in a stationery shop.

The box was detonated harmlessly by police, who said it had contained cameras belonging to an American journalist.

In spite of the problems, Sir John Boynton, the election commissioner, reported that the turnout in the voting had already surpassed the total votes cast in last April's disputed election.

By 3 p.m. he said, more than 2,100,000 votes had been cast. This represented about 67.7 per cent of the estimated 3,000,000 eligible voters in contrast to a turnout of 64.4 per cent in the five days of voting last April.

During the first 24 rain-soaked hours of voting, a military spokesman said 14 people were killed in clashes with security forces mobilized to protect the voting process.

The Zanu (PF) Party complained that the invisible ink wiped on voters' hands to prevent them from voting twice could be washed off with Coca-Cola.

Electoral officials said tests refuted this claim and denied Zanu (PF) allegations that supporters of Bishop Muzorewa were employing this method to gain extra votes.

The invisible ink shows up under the infra-red light installed in each polling station.

In the middle of the elections, Rhodesian leaders received a boost today with the news that emigration fell last month to 637, compared to 707 in December.

Whites fined: Two young Rhodesian whites were fined in Umpoti for assaulting two British Army officers who were with coloured women.

The men, Mr David Horwood, aged 19, and Mr Frederick Wide, aged 20, admitted attacking the officers in a motel car park here last Friday night.

The officers, who were treated in hospital for cuts and bruises, are both from the Commonwealth monitoring force. They are Colonel Vivian Ridley and Major Paul Bradley.

The court was told yesterday that the two officers, in civilian dress, were followed and attacked without having given provocation.

Zimbabwe prisoners: Zambia is holding about 200 Rhodesian soldiers and an unknown number of Rhodesian opponents of the Patriotic Front alliance, informed diplomatic sources said today.

The sources said that the Patriotic Front opponents included about 40 supporters of Bishop Muzorewa's Uanc party.

Many of them were rounded up last weekend, apparently to stop them returning to Rhodesia to vote.

The sources said many of the Rhodesian soldiers held in Zambia were members of the elite Selous Scouts, who have been responsible for a number of cross-border raids during the seven-year guerrilla war.

They said the Uanc detainees were held under 28-day detention orders. Their arrests were the result of close cooperation between Zambian police and security officials of Mr Nkomo's wing of the Patriotic Front, based in Zambia during the guerrilla war.—Reuter.

Guerrilla costs: The British Government is spending £31m on financing the Rhodesian settlement and elections (the Press Association reports).

League urges Tunisia-Libya normalization

Tunis, Feb 28—The Arab League, debating Tunisian allegations of Libyan aggression, today asked the two countries to bury their differences and normalise relations. It did not heed the Tunisian request for a condemnation of its neighbour.

Tunisia alleged that Libya organised a guerrilla attack last month on the southern Tunisian mining town of Gafsa in which 41 people were killed and more than 100 were wounded. Libya denied the charge.

The league said in a statement today that the dispute was diverting Arab states from their real objective, opposition to the Camp David peace agreement.

It called for an end to the propaganda war between the two states and said a committee made up of the Foreign Ministers of Iraq, Kuwait, Syria and a representative of the Arab League secretariat would oversee normalization of relations.

If there were difficulties, the committee could call for another full session of the league to take whatever steps were necessary.

Belgrade sees Jenkins visit as proof of EEC care

From Dossa Trevisan
Belgrade, Feb 28

The political importance which the European Community attaches to Yugoslavia was underlined by the arrival here of Mr Roy Jenkins, the President of the European Commission, for talks with Mr Veselin Djurajovic, the Yugoslav Prime Minister.

Last week, an agreement was reached in Brussels between Yugoslavia and the nine, offering considerable scope for Yugoslav exports and holding out a promise of increased economic cooperation.

As Yugoslavia is at present facing serious economic problems, this cooperation is expected to ease the "situation and help" the country in maintaining a fairly high growth rate.

The Yugoslavs are satisfied with the terms they have obtained from the EEC. The talks had been dragging on for two years. The EEC was spurred into quickening the negotiations by President Tito's illness and the belief that Yugoslavia's economic difficulties might have a destabilizing effect.

The Yugoslavs are aware of this. A Belgrade political commentator has said that the agreement reached in Brussels

recognizes that a stable and non-aligned Yugoslavia is an important factor in European security.

The new agreement, which is to be signed next month, is expected to provide a strong incentive to Yugoslavia to reduce its huge balance of payments deficit with the Nine.

It is also expected to ease the country's current economic difficulties arising from high industrial growth, inflation and unemployment.

The agreement also provides for full social security benefits for Yugoslav migrant workers in EEC countries.

Whether all will work out as hoped remains to be seen. But the agreement is seen here as a confirmation of Western European interest in Yugoslavia's stability, as well as interest in extending economic cooperation.

Yugoslavia's economy depends heavily on trade with Western Europe from where they are importing capital goods and modern technology. But until now the EEC could not take Yugoslav exports to cover the cost of imports and as a result Yugoslavia has a huge national debt.

Mr Arthur Blessitt, an American evangelist, carries a 130lb cross along the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv motorway on his way to Cairo.

From Sue Masterman
Vienna, Feb 28

Non-proliferation and the development of nuclear energy were the topics of the talks between the American delegation and the Japanese delegation at the end of the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation conference here.

"This conclusion may be simple, but we have only been able to confirm it after two and a half years' hard work," Mr Arthur Blessitt added.

Infice was set up in Washington in October, 1977. It was a technical operation, meant to avoid the political issues in the supply and use of radioactive fuel. Sixty-six countries and five international organizations participated.

The main reason for Infice's creation was the fact that many countries, especially in Western Europe and Japan, that their sources of nuclear fuel would be endangered by restrictive measures, such as the United States insistence on subjecting the radioactive fuel to export controls.

The uranium shortage at about the turn of the century, when many developing countries will probably have atomic energy, would affect those

countries most. In the industrialized countries there are more alternative sources of energy.

The dangers to the environment of radioactive fuels have also been considered by Infice, which has come to the conclusion that, under normal conditions, these provide only a fraction of the radiation that people are exposed to naturally. Infice is more concerned about the risk from uranium mining waste than that from atomic power stations or radioactive waste which, the report states, can be stored indefinitely with practically no risk.

Another main problem was the danger that plutonium, the raw material for atomic bombs and a waste product of nuclear reactors, might be extracted from reprocessed uranium and diverted so that countries which did not possess atomic weapons might obtain them.

After 61 meetings that produced 20,000 pages of documents, Infice has concluded that this is feasible, but unlikely. There is cheaper and easier

Colombian unrest has middle class involvement

By David Watts

The spectacular kidnapping of 14 ambassadors in Bogota yesterday comes against a background of what the opposition sees as the progressive militarization of the regime of President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala, who was elected 18 months ago.

The kidnapping, which moved to declare in the Bogota daily *El Espectador*: "It is no longer a crime to hold left-wing views in Colombia today; it is a crime to hold any kind of views whatsoever."

The Government's hard line has been contrasted by an increasing politicization of the peasantry and the middle class in the wake of the election which observers say provoked such criticism among the electorate that more than half of those eligible to vote failed to do so.

The President immediately followed those elections with a series of tough anti-terrorist measures, including 30-year prison terms for state security offenders.

About a year ago a number of groups seeking improvements in human rights began to form across the country. The spectrum of these groups ranged from the moderate National Association of Human Rights, which has been active in the search for the whereabouts of the disappeared, to the more radical groups which are active in the search for the whereabouts of the disappeared.

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OVERSEAS

Carrington plan for Afghanistan rebuffed at non-aligned talks

From Richard Wigg, Delhi, Feb 28

Three important non-aligned countries, India, Yugoslavia and Algeria have agreed during talks in Delhi over the past three days that they will not support Lord Carrington's proposals for a neutral Afghanistan.

But while they are opposed, with differing emphasis, to something on the lines of the 1955 Austrian State Treaty of 1955, the secret of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and reduce the East-West conflict in the region, they are too far apart to agree on any alternative formula.

After talks with both the Soviet and Algerian foreign ministers, the Indian Government spokesman opposed what he called neutrality "in the technical sense" which is how Delhi judges the British proposal.

The next step will come when Mr Eric Gonsalves, the Indian External Affairs Ministry official who has just finished three days of talks in Washington, reaches London on Monday. On the way, Mr Gonsalves is calling at Ottawa to hear the views of the new Liberal Government.

In the aftermath of last week's popular resistance to the Russians in Kabul, the Indians are more anxious than ever to find a way to take an initiative. Their difficulty is to find one which promises to be successful with so cumbersome and ideologically divided a body as the non-aligned movement today.

The wholly unsatisfactory result is that India's multilateral consultation must continue. For Delhi is also searching for a forum since the regional approach, after the soundings made with neighbouring governments, has also revealed its limitations.

Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal all put the emphasis on immediate withdrawal of Soviet troops, which the Indians see as too one-sided.

Nine work on details of neutrality plan

From Our Correspondent, Rome, Feb 28

Senior diplomats from the nine EEC countries met here today to work out details of a proposal for the neutralization of Afghanistan and which would open the way for the Soviet Union to withdraw its troops.

No decisions were expected at the meeting, which Italian officials described as a "preparatory working group" rather than a ministerial conference. But the session was another sign that the European Community was pressing ahead quickly with efforts to solve the Afghan crisis.

The senior diplomats were following up a call made here last week by the nine EEC foreign ministers for the neutralization of Afghanistan and which would open the way for the Soviet Union to withdraw without "losing face". The plan was immediately endorsed by President Carter.

The next stages in the discussions will be a meeting of officials in Rome on March 13 followed by consultations between foreign ministers. It is quite likely that if a formula can be produced quickly, it could be put to the EEC governments and Washington in the coming days.

The meetings are taking place in Rome as Italy is president of the EEC Council of Ministers for the first half of 1980. Italian leaders are likely to make the formal proposals to the Soviet Union, although the original idea came from Lord Carrington.

During his visit this week to Bonn the British Foreign Secretary suggested that Signor Francesco Cossiga, the Italian Prime Minister, or Signor Amintore Fanfani, the Foreign Minister, might present the proposal.

Western diplomats here say they are also discussing a way of allowing the United States to consult on a regular and organized basis with its European allies. Mr Vance, the United States Secretary of State, had hoped to start this process with a meeting in Bonn on January 20 with the foreign ministers of Britain, West Germany, France and Italy, but the meeting was vetoed by France.

In view of the strong French position, diplomats are considering holding regular meetings of a group of European ambassadors and senior officials in Washington.

Los Angeles, Feb 28.—Sir John Gielgud won the Best Spoken Word award for his recorded Shakespeare readings, "The Ages of Man", at the annual "Grammy" presentations of the United States recording industry.

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Tension in Kabul eases as shop strike ends

From Robert Evans, Reuters Correspondent, Kabul, Feb 28

Soviet ground-to-air missiles were today seen for the first time at Kabul airport as tensions appeared to be easing in the Afghan capital after last weekend's suppressed civil insurrection.

Five batteries with four missiles each were lined up along the airport runway, but they were not in firing position and seemed to have recently been delivered. There is a big Soviet Army camp at the end of the runway.

The missiles have not been seen in the Kabul area previously. It was not clear what purpose they might serve in the war that has mainly involved army units with insurgent tribesmen and townspeople.

Meanwhile, almost all shops in the city had reopened after a six-day strike in protest against the Soviet military presence.

The strike began in response to a call by an underground Muslim organization. It preceded the insurrection that broke out on Friday morning but had largely been put down by Saturday.

Until Tuesday many shopkeepers ignored government calls to reopen some tradesmen joined foot owners in going back to work. Yesterday, about 90 per cent of shops were open and government offices appeared to be working normally.

Today, most heavy Afghan Army tanks had been withdrawn from strategic points around the city.

Armed activists of the ruling People's Democratic Party and Afghan Army units were patrolling some areas but there was little sign of a Soviet presence in the city centre.

Accounts gathered from foreigners and Afghans suggested that during the insurrection the Soviet Army mainly confined itself to establishing defences around areas where Soviet civilians and their families live in and around Moscow's Embassy compound.

Diplomats in Kabul expressed strong scepticism about reports from Islamabad that the Government of Mr Babrak Karmal had begun executing Muslim leaders and insurgents captured after the insurrection.

"I simply do not believe it is happening," a senior foreign diplomat said.

In the past week, correspondents in Kabul have consistently found foreign radio broadcasts based on insurgent accounts issued in Pakistan of the situation in the city to be very inaccurate.

The tone of government press reporting indicated that Mr Karmal, who was installed in power in December after Soviet troops entered the country, still hoped to win the confidence as a defender of Islam.

Summary killings of the type the sources in Islamabad have reported would further alienate the population and make Mr Karmal's efforts to present himself as a moderate leader more difficult, the diplomats said.

An editorial in the English-language *Kabul New Times* said yesterday that what it called a progressive regime is only tolerant to various groups of opinion so long as these do not lead to diversions from its chosen path.

It declared: "In case extremists worked up by fanaticism attempt to endanger national unity or security, they will be considered as a social menace and (will be) liable to commensurate treatment."

in a one-week battle north of the Red Sea port of Assab this month.

Western diplomats said that the Soviet Union seemed reluctant to commit more weapons and advisers to the war in Eritrea after intervening in Afghanistan, although about 400 miles of coastline on the Red Sea make Eritrea an area of strategic importance.

The Arab sources said that the Russians had proposed that Mr Nasir's guerrillas establish contact with the Ethiopian Government. But it was not clear whether the Russians were exerting pressure on the hard-liners in the Ethiopian military council, the Dergue, who have been in favour of crushing the Eritrean secessionists by force of arms.

The Soviet appeal for negotiations appeared to reflect concern that the war in Eritrea could lead to the collapse of the Dergue, which is facing economic and social problems.

—Reuters.

Los Angeles, Feb 28.—Three members of the Port Elizabeth Black Civic Organization (Pebco), detained after a strike at the Ford Motor Company here, have been served with banning orders.

Colonel Gerrit Erasmus, security police chief in the Eastern Cape, confirmed that the men were released from detention yesterday and served with the three-year orders under the Internal Security Act.

Mr Thozama Botha, chairman of Pebco, was detained on Friday along with Mr Phelo Isakhe, ebco secretary, and Mr Mono Badela, a journalist and ebco member, and held under the terrorism Act.

Mr Botha, a former trainee draughtsman at the Ford plant, was instrumental in staging a seven-week strike by the 700 employees last November.

Under the banning orders, the movement of the men is restricted and they are not to attend public meetings, be quoted or see more than one person at a time. A similar order was served on Mr Dan Gqoke, another executive Pebco member released from prison earlier.

The orders were condemned by Mr Wilson Skosana, acting Pebco chairman, who said they would have to turn a fund to support the men.

Los Angeles, Feb 28.—The body of Frau Hamelore Schmatz, aged 39, the first woman mountaineer to die on Everest, has been seen by two Polish climbers who approached within 10 ft during their descent from the peak.

Mr Lesek Cichy and Mr Krzysztof Wielicki said today there was no sign of the body of Mr Ray Genet, an American, who also died during the Schmatz expedition but they had seen some climbing equipment.

—Reuters.



Leap to safety: Passengers jump from the front exit of the China Airlines Boeing 707 that burst into flames on landing at Manila airport on Wednesday after losing two engines. The 135 passengers survived the crash landing but a Taiwanese woman tourist died today in hospital of burns. A further 34 passengers are in hospital with burns and broken bones received in the 15 ft leap from the burning aircraft to the tarmac. One is in a critical condition. However, 74 were unscathed. The 11 crew members survived but all were injured. Mr Jesus Singson, of the Philippine Bureau of Air Transportation, has formed an investigation team to find the cause of the crash and explosion after a rough, nose-down landing. A nine-man group from China Airlines was on its way to help with the inquiry. Captain Wu Hung, aged 50, the pilot, will also participate in the inquiry.

Lance court told of nearly \$1m in loans to friends and family

From Michael Leapman, Atlanta, Feb 28

Dozens of times a day, Judge Charles Moye would adjust his spectacles, lean forward until his nose almost touched his desk and peer through a small magnifying glass at one of a heap of cheques and deposit slips.

A lawyer for Mr Bert Lance, President Carter's former budget director, would object that the material was poorly copied, scarcely legible or lacking an identifying stamp. The judge would hear the objection and generally overrule it.

With the single word, "received," he would pass to the next piece of evidence in the trial of Mr Lance and three associates, charged with illegal banking practices, including fraud.

That most recent preliminary phase of the drawn-out trial ended here yesterday after lasting a week. Seven weeks after the trial began, the first witness could not last be called to testify on Mr Lance's allegedly unorthodox banking methods which are said to have allowed his friends and relatives to amass hundreds of thousands of dollars in overdrafts and unsecured loans.

The unusually extended preparation period was required because lawyers for the defendants are fighting the case every inch of the way. They have permitted none of the customary short-cuts that have usually with some of their four sons.

A fervent Baptist, she dresses demurely in suits and sweaters. Last week she was startled to be reprimanded by the judge for reading the Bible during a tedious spell.

Things became livelier yesterday when the first material witness was called to the stand, where he is still testifying today. He is Mr Richard Newell, the director of banking operations for the Georgia region of the Office of the Controller of the Currency responsible for



Mr Bert Lance: trial enters into lively phase.

are listed, perused and ruled upon.

Sometimes his hands are thrust deep into the pockets of his blue and grey mohair suits, as he stretches his bulky frame on the seat. Sometimes he has a hand to his face, his thumb curled into the flesh of his double chin and his first two fingers pressed hard into his pudgy left cheek.

His wife, Labele, an exemplary Southern lady—sits on the public seats behind, usually with some of their four sons.

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after President Park was killed by his intelligence chief last October. Their reinstatement has been sought by both the ruling and opposition parties.

Those rehabilitated included 365 students and 21 professors who will return to their university campuses after being expelled.

Among the 42 Catholic and Protestant priests recovering their civil rights are Bishop Chi Hak Soon of the Wonju diocese and the Quaker leader, Mr Ham Suk Han.

All had been convicted for denouncing President Park's rule and received prison terms as well as losing civil rights.

However, Mr Kim Ji Ha, the dissident poet now serving life imprisonment, did not benefit from today's measure, because, authorities said, he had been convicted by the anti-communist law for his past favourable attitude to North Korea.

France-Press and AP.

Los Angeles, Feb 28.—A Berkeley couple who were once close associates of the Rev Jim Jones and believed that they were on a "hit list" because they defected from Jones' People's Temple, were murdered in their home on Tuesday night. Their 16-year-old daughter was critically wounded.

Police said today that they had no suspects or motive for the shooting of Al Mills, aged 51, and his wife, Jeannie, aged 40, or the wounding of their daughter, Daphne.

The bodies were discovered late Tuesday by Mr Mills' mother, who visited the house which is close to the University of California Berkeley campus. The Mills' son, Eddie, aged 17, who was unharmed, told detectives that he was watching television in his room but heard no shots or anything unusual.

In 1975, the family left the Jones group after six years' membership. At the time they were the cult leader's closest advisers, he had been written to after their defection they launched a public crusade criticizing the way Jones ran his religious group and they, along with other disenchanted members, claimed that Jones had

before "assassination squads" formed the mass murder-suicide in Jonestown, Guyana, of 914 people in November, 1978.

Investigators say they have found no evidence so far linking the Mills' murders to the People's Temple.

From 1975 to 1978 the Mills tried in vain to expose Jones. In an affidavit the couple signed in October, 1978, they stated that "since we left the church our children have been harassed, threatened and maltreated. They threatened to beat us up and to kill us if we did anything to expose them."

The Mills' daughter, Daphne, is in a critical condition. Today, the *Los Angeles Times* reported that Jones mentioned the couple by name in a rambling tape-recorded speech made while his followers died in the Jonestown massacre.

"Remember Deanna Mertle and Elmer... the people in San Francisco won't be idle," Jones said ominously about the defunct couple shortly before he died in the jungle compound.

Deanna and Elmer Mertle, as they were known until they left the People's Temple, had changed their names to Al and Jeannie Mills.

Fishermen in Japan kill 800 dolphins

Tokyo, Feb 28.—Japanese fishermen, claiming that they were protecting their livelihood against "the plagues of the sea," killed more than 800 dolphins today despite conservationists' protests.

The fishermen on Japan's island of Iki were killing the sea mammals with spears and clubs and feeding the carcasses into a specially-built shredder that reduced them to pulp for fertilizer, according to an eyewitness of the scene.

The machine is dripping with black oil, said Mr Jim Nollman, of Bolinas, California, said in a telephone interview.

Mr Nollman has been in the area, near the city of Nagasaki, testing acoustical equipment designed to scare the dolphins away from the Iki fishing grounds and thus avoid the mass killings.

"What's really frustrating is that the equipment works," Mr Nollman said. "The fishermen have been able to work in but they've decided once and for all they're going to get rid of all the dolphins in the area."

Just two years ago, the fishermen of Iki caused world-wide indignation when they butchered 1,000 dolphins.

Mr John Frizell, the director of the environmental group, Greenpeace, said he was dismayed that the fishermen had not listened to reason, adding that the dolphins are "warm-blooded, intelligent mammals like ourselves. We consider them to be intelligent beings with feelings." AP.

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Mr Botha, a former trainee draughtsman at the Ford plant, was instrumental in staging a seven-week strike by the 700 employees last November.

Under the banning orders, the movement of the men is restricted and they are not to attend public meetings, be quoted or see more than one person at a time. A similar order was served on Mr Dan Gqoke, another executive Pebco member released from prison earlier.

The orders were condemned by Mr Wilson Skosana, acting Pebco chairman, who said they would have to turn a fund to support the men.

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US spouses may testify against each other

From David Cross, Washington, Feb 28

In a move that has delighted women's rights groups, the United States Supreme Court has freed men and women from the centuries-old ban on testifying in court against their spouses.

The court ruled yesterday that men and women may choose whether they want to testify against their husbands or wives. The ruling will, however, apply to federal cases only, and the 50 states will continue to set their own standards for local court cases. About half the states have already acted to remove the ban.

In its judgment the court said the ban was based on a number of "ancient" concepts, not least the idea of the wife as a chattel without any separate legal identity. More over one of the arguments in favour of the ban was that it helped to preserve a marriage.

The court pointed out that if a spouse was willing to help send the other to prison there was "probably little left in the way of marital harmony" to preserve. "Chips by chip, over the years, these archaic notions have been cast aside so that no longer is it considered a disgrace solely for the home and the rearing of the family, and only the mole for the market place and the world of ideas," the court added.

According to the new ruling, Mrs Judith Lichtman, director of the Women's Legal Defence Fund, said that the so-called "spousal privilege" had often been used by husbands in recent years to block testimony in wife-beating cases. The decision by the Supreme Court could hasten the general move at the state level towards helping such women obtain damages from their husbands.

The actual case before the Supreme Court, however, involved an Air Force man and his wife who took part in a scheme to ship heroin from a base in Thailand to the United States. The woman agreed to testify against her husband in return for legal immunity for herself.

The Supreme Court ruling upheld the decision by lower courts to allow the woman to testify over the objections of her husband.

Los Angeles, Feb 28.—Indonesia is to grant citizenship to about a million Chinese living illegally in the country as a step to allow the nation to mend relations with China.

The State Secretariat said today that President Suharto has instructed the Justice and Home ministries and the Security Agency to register Chinese nationals in Indonesia and to help them apply for Indonesian citizenship before August 17, the country's independence day.

Indonesia wants to speed up integration of its alien community to allow the nation to mend relations with China. Those who want to remain Chinese nationals must leave the country.—UPI.

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PARLIAMENT, February 28, 1980

Monetarist dream has turned into nightmare: rigid policy weakening and bleeding industry

House of Commons
Opinion was mounting in the country that a change in the government's policies was urgently necessary. The feeling was spreading through the ranks of Conservative voters, had been taken by certain Conservative MPs, and had reached into the Cabinet. Mr James Callaghan, leader of the Opposition said when he moved that the House had no confidence in the economic and industrial policies of the Government. He said the words of the motion accurately described the doubts and anxieties of people in every walk of life. People's doubts were fed every day by the open disagreements and daily briefings about their direction given by ministers. The Prime Minister himself was as much responsible as anyone for this situation. If ministers are not convinced about the wisdom and efficacy of the basic policies of their colleagues (he said) how can they expect the rest of the country to believe them. (Labour cheers.)

The Opposition had no confidence in the Government's strict, rigid monetary policy lay at the heart of its doctrine was weakening and bleeding the country's industries a view shared by some Conservatives.

Our charge against the Prime Minister and her government (he continued) is that their policies are recklessly widening the social divisions in our society. They make the rich richer and the poor poorer. They are deliberately creating greater inequality and social injustice with the result that dangerous forces are being unleashed in the country. That is the charge. (Labour cheers.)

When the Prime Minister first stood on the steps of 10 Downing Street (he said), the first woman Prime Minister in our history. Robert Aldrich (Peasnor, North, C) - As opposed to the first woman Prime Minister. (Loud and prolonged Conservative laughter.)

Can she truthfully say that her policies and speeches since that day have been intended to bring harmony and peace to the country? Or rather sought to pander to every popular prejudice, making trade unions the scapegoat for all ills, while the rest of the country was left to fend for itself? (Labour cheers.)

Confidence was waning and doubts had grown because the Government had not shown the people to believe in the glossy commercials that appeared on television a year ago. Some of the slogans now came back a little wryly. The quickest way to empty a crowded room was now to say "Cheer up the Conservatives are coming." (Labour laughter.)

There were slogans plastered throughout the streets and corners of South Wales, saying "Don't just hope for a better life. Vote for one." Not many inside Wales were taken in by that (he said) but others were, and now there is no hope.

He wanted to see the steel strike settled and settled quickly, rather than two balloons conducted by the employers were likely to achieve. The unions had had recourse to Acas. That was the only way forward without success to bring the two sides together. Rightly or wrongly, some of the union negotiators had been too dependent on Acas. This was not justified and he had told them so. Nevertheless, if this was a stumbling block, a possible way forward would be for Acas to appoint an independent mediator who would listen to both sides and having gathered their representations, then make his findings. The unions and the BSC should undertake in advance to accept such findings as were made.

Mr Robert Crier (Keighley, Lab) - The reality of nuclear war means that strap pumps and white-washed windows that are no defence against the horrors of mass extermination which underpins the doctrine of NATO on nuclear weapons.

It is not precisely because the nuclear war would be fought by the BBC abandoned the showing of *The War Games* which shows civil defence in action?

Mr Brittan - I agree that the credibility of the defence arrangements generally does involve having adequate civil defence arrangements. That is why the Home Secretary is taking the review that is currently taking place.

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A firm start with good measure of success: Prime Minister feels mood of realism is spreading fast

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister (Barnet, Finchley, C) said that at least no-one could deny Mr Callaghan's claim to an expert in the failures of Government. He was not the person to give lectures on Cabinet disarray.

One of his former Cabinet colleagues, Mrs Barbara Castle (Leeds, C) said that on December 4, 1968, she thought Jim Callaghan was a phoney. She said she had been wrong.

After barely two years in office Mr Callaghan's party had brought Britain to the brink of total economic collapse. The country was saved, not by his or his party's efforts, but by the Conservative monetary control and reduced public spending, humbly imposed by the International Monetary Fund and fully supported by Conservative MPs and herself.

As the monetary medicine began to work, he tried to assign the blame to his own policy. He would prompt collapse about his ears as his own collapsing allies, the trade unions, rejected both it and him.

Today his party, increasingly infiltrated by people who wish to destroy the mixed economy, advocated a return to the policies of excessive spending and excessive borrowing which would lead inevitably to another collapse.

He and his policies (she said) are part of our problem. They can never be part of the solution. (Loud and prolonged Conservative laughter.)

The Labour Party had put public expenditure up by 9 per cent over a period when GDP actually fell. Employment more than doubled during the period. The Government had to put trade unions above the law; they gave them the right to picket, to strike, to legislate to put trade unions above the law; they gave them the right to picket, to strike, to legislate to put trade unions above the law.

That was the position when Britain entered for a new start and a new beginning. People had wanted a Government prepared to face the basic problems realistically, which was not the case. The Government was not prepared to face the basic problems realistically, which was not the case.

Now they expected it to do what was elected to do, not to be deflected by the Labour politicians they had sacked last May.

The objective (she said) is to get the country back on a growth earned by people's own efforts in a free and responsible society. The first priority is to get the country back on a growth earned by people's own efforts in a free and responsible society.

That was the only realistic period that could be made in a period when unemployment was threatening to go to two million or even higher.

We are at the beginning of a period he said when the phenomenal growth of Government revenues from North Sea oil will begin to reduce the borrowing required to run the country.

The Government had increased the poverty trap at the lower levels of income by not updating child benefit and child tax credit. The Government had increased the poverty trap at the lower levels of income by not updating child benefit and child tax credit.

During the period of the Liberal Party (Robert Crier, Lab) said that they had no quarrel with some of the Government's declared objectives.

Freedom and social justice will be in peril unless inflation can be got out of the economic system. The charge that the Conservatives had been responsible for all or even most of the price increases since the election was blatantly false.

Experience shows (she continued) that the way of attacking inflation is to keep the money supply closely related to the output of goods and services.

These feelings were the origins of the Employment Bill going through the House. It would not do to rigorously oppose those who were doing their best to achieve the overhauling majority of the British people. (Renewed Conservative cheers.)

The Opposition would oppose the provisions restricting picketing to the place of work of the picket. Those who had been at the picketing line would be the subject of an inquiry to which the union refused to give evidence.

The Employment Bill began to address the balance of power in the country. It was not a trade dispute. It was a trade dispute.

Some trade union leaders would acknowledge that what the Government was doing was to deal with the balance of power in the country. It was a trade dispute.

Many other changes were being made to improve the operation of the economy. An economic climate had been created which would result in new jobs and present investment being used more effectively. (Labour shouts of "When?")

The Government wanted to increase incentives and rewards for extra effort. (More Conservative cheers.) The Chancellor had made a speech about the Government's intention to increase incentives and rewards for extra effort.

It had become abundantly clear that just as the unions had at one time sought to address the country's economic problems, so the Government was now doing the same.

He had a complaint of the general economic and fiscal policy of this administration. It was that the Government had been too slow to react to the problems of the economy.

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All the indicators looking bad

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party (Roxburgh, Lib) said that the Government's policy was leading to a situation where the economy was in a state of stagnation.

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Governors must decide how BBC meets targets

Any programme cuts proposed by the BBC must be a matter for the governors, Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, said when MPs complained about reports of planned cuts.

Mr John Dornan (Eastleigh, Lab) began the exchanges by saying that the BBC was a public corporation and that its governors should be responsible for its financial health.

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New civil defence organization not needed

The Government did not believe that a new national civil defence organization was needed, Mr Michael McNair-Wilson (Newbury, Con) said at a question time.

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TUC's day of action will do no good for Britain

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More than words are needed

The Government would require more than words as evidence of the Soviet Union's good intentions, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said when questioned about Afghanistan.

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Minister's pledge on cash for heritage fund

The fund should be exempt from any general expenditure cuts considered in the future, Lord Mowbray and Sturges said during the committee stage of the Heritage Act.

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Statement on phone tapping before Easter

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Too few listening to too many for too long

Peers speeches were, in his modest view, too long, said Lord Ferrers, Leader of the House and Minister of State for Agriculture, said when asked about the cost of the House of Lords.

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Parliamentary notices

House of Commons
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Opposition motion on loss of job opportunities

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Prison system

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary (Penrhyn and the Border, C) announced during questions that a statement on the prison system would be made before Easter.

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Future of Borstal

The future of Borstal would be considered in the Home Office review of the treatment of young offenders, Mr John Birt, Minister of State, Home Office, said during questions.

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Tax yield

Mr Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said in a written reply that the amount of PAYE tax for the year to April 5, 1980, is estimated at £28,800m.

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Under Lomé 1, the ACP nations had a less dynamic export record with the EEC than non-ACP developing countries, despite duty-free entry to the Community for 99.5 per cent of their mainly agricultural exports.

the women's figure skaters. Lake Placid, was yesterday named to reserve in favor of Deborah Cottrill.

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11/11/1950

SPORT

Racing

A Champion opening day at Cheltenham

By Michael Phillips

Racing Correspondent

The unsuspicious will find a difference at Cheltenham next month when the three-day National Festival gets under way on March 11. This year the order of play has been altered and racing will begin a quarter of an hour earlier each day at 2.15.

In recent years the meeting has picked off with a card which has featured the Alliance Stakes, a hurdle sponsored by the same firm; the two-mile Champion Hurdle; and the Coral Golden Hurdle. This time the first day will start the Champion Hurdle itself; two other races also sponsored by the Waterford Glass Company and the Arkle Challenge Trophy. The programme that have been accustomed to seeing first will now be the last, leaving Gold Cup day on the Thursday unchanged.

Officially the reason behind the switch has been the wholly understandable desire to see the Champion Hurdle run on the best possible ground on the first day, which tends to get a battering on the first two days, before the new course is brought into play for the first time. But I cannot help wondering whether some sharp financial brain has also been at work: by starting the Champion Hurdle on the first day the overall receipts for the meeting will be increased considerably. It is certainly interesting to see what the figures are at the end of it.

Contingency plans in the event of bad weather disrupting the meeting have just been published in this week's Racing Calendar so everyone can rest assured that as little as possible will be lost if the worst comes to the worst and the whole meeting is abandoned.

The March races will be reopened and run at the April meeting. On the Gold Cup front, Richard Bower confirmed yesterday that following the current third following the facie victory at Windsor, the facie victory at good to hear because Bower incident has been best with so many problems of one description or another throughout his life that one simply cannot take anything for granted.

His devoted and extremely able trainer will have one singularly interesting runner at Newbury today, Capadocia, in the first division of the Whatcombe Novices Hurdle. As a three-year-old Capadocia won in France and also finished fourth to Highclere in the Prix de Diane, the French equivalent of our Oaks. She is now aged nine and in the intervening years she has been in stud and produced two foals. She joined Head's stable at the beginning of December after she was found to be barren.

Apparently Capadocia has taken cut on this in training again more prudent to side with a farmer whose form in this sort of company stands up to the closest of scrutiny. At Cheltenham earlier this year he finished in front of both Meisterlinger and Loophole, two of his most dangerous rivals this afternoon. I shall be interested to see how another Dolly runs in the Arkell Brewery Chase. Steeplechase not only because I think he will win this prize, which is sponsored by a local brewer, but because his name might well be one to bear in mind for this year's Grand National. If Fred Rimell can nurse him back into the good form of two seasons ago when he was a force to be reckoned with.

Old stager who still has a few tricks left

The Lingfield crowd gave Sonny Somers the sort of welcome reserved for legends like Arkle and Red Rum when the country's oldest performer sprinted past Albion Lad to win the Western Handicap Chase yesterday.

Last with a surge led the 18-year-old was brought with a surge in the straight by Ben de Haan, only two years his junior. Passing Albion Lad going to the final fence, they cleared clear to win by five lengths. At first his trainer, Fred Winter, could find only one word — "fantastic" — to describe his favourite. Then he added: "Out of all my successes as a rider and jockey, nothing gave me a greater thrill than this old horse."

This makes up for missing his win at Southwell two weeks ago. He'll go on until he does not like it any more. He came to me 12 years ago, and has led the string over ever since. He goes up to those gallops with his own pace and ready to run off."

This was Sonny Somers' 25th victory in 100 outings, adding by the way to his list of 100. There is still another chapter to be added to the story.

Winter about pleasure over his second winner, Diatigue, as it gave the 21-year-old Marquis de Cuellar his first success in this country. The Marquis had Distigue over San Marcy in the U.K. Novices Chase. "I began riding in point-to-point 24 years ago, and have won quite a few, but it has always been my big ambition to score under rules."

In the lead from the fourth fence, Bello Luna had her trick like catching Bello Luna until the final accident.

Peter Cundell had a chance of luck when his gift horse "Tiepollo" overtook "Tiepollo" on the flat to win the Hidden Mystery Handicap Chase. "I began riding in point-to-point 24 years ago, and have won quite a few, but it has always been my big ambition to score under rules."

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Horse laugh: Sonny Somers, the oldest winning steeplechaser in the country, takes a bow at Lingfield Park.

from home with fatal results. The mare, owned by Douglas Bun, broke her neck and died immediately. Miankies had cost Amberfield the lead, but Hywel Davies had the favourite challenging strongly, and they broke like catching Bello Luna until the final accident.

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Dramatist's special preparations can bring Walwyn big prize

By Michael Seely

Racing Correspondent

By Michael Seely
Dramatist can give Folke Walwyn his first success in the Embassy Final at Haydock Park today. This is one of the few big races that has so far escaped Walwyn, who is 59. Dramatist can take this style as a prelude to tackling the Queen Mother Two-Mile Championship at Cheltenham, the race in which he finished runner-up to Billy Way last year.

Ever since its inception the Embassy Final has been one of the most significant races of the season. Last year, the inaugural winner in 1970, went on to capture two Cheltenham Gold Cups and a Grand National. The fact that Bower Incident, the Dealer and Silver Buck are the last three names inscribed on this coveted trophy speaks volumes for the importance of this two and a half mile test.

Dramatist was only a few pounds below top class as a hurdler. He finished third to Night Nurse in the 1977 running of the Champion Hurdle. Last season he took to steeplechasing like a duck to water, winning four races over fences and losing no more in defeat at the hands of the more experienced Billy Way at Cheltenham.

This season Dramatist has taken a little time to find his best form. After a bloodless victory in a two-horse affair at Newbury in November, the gelding was beaten three times before regaining the winning thread at Kempton and Cheltenham. In his latest victory the nine-year-old showed his true worth when sprinting clear of joint favourite and the Grand National favourite, Zongolero, in the Tote Jackpot Handicap Steeplechase.

This last win was gained on January 26 because Dramatist could not run in the Embassy Final which had been abandoned due to frost a week earlier. There are two factors to bear in mind regarding the favourite's early season form: first that the virus was affecting Walwyn's stable at that time and secondly that the horse needs soft to heavy ground to give of his best. The going is sure to be on the easy side this afternoon.

Drusus, Daletta and Narribini are Dramatist's most serious rivals. Narribini beat Dramatist in the Embassy Qualifier and would also probably have beaten the Snipe at Wincanton but for falling at the second fence. Narribini, but somehow it is hard to see him proving a match for Dramatist.

Drusus is a natural. He gobbles up his fences like a hungry tiger and in his latest venture at Nottingham he was inclined to discount the horse's chance today. But the Nottingham race took place in yielding conditions, so it would be a mistake to leave Drusus out of the reckoning.

Daletta is something of an unknown quantity. But any horse that can give Romany Court 15lbs and a six-length beating cannot be devoid of ability. In his previous race at Ayr, Romany Court had a little over a hard fight when in receipt of 10lbs from Peter Easterby's Cheltenham hope. However, Dramatist has been specially prepared for this race and must be preferred.

The supporting Embassy Hurdle

looks another cut-throat affair. At least three horses have been well-backed to win this two-mile handicap. Folke Walwyn has been the best of the market order. Mick Easterby's five-year-old was winning his second race in succession when wearing down Flemenco Surprise at Doncaster. Folke Walwyn had to fight hard for his victory that day, but both the runner-up and Lochran, who finished third, have won since.

Walwyn's Schweppes Gold Trophy failure, Never Lift Up, a progressive Northern challenger, Rhinoceros, who finished second at Moor Close at Stockton last weekend, have also been well supported. Danish King and Millionaire must also be considered. Millionaire did not beat much of account when winning Ladbrokes' Betcha Hurdle Final at Nottingham, but Willie Gaby's six-year-old was a useful horse on the flat. In going for the second successive year, made virtually all the running on Newmarket yesterday. Carmody has now ridden 39 winners, and his scoring rate is nearly three out of ten.

New Colonist started 7-4 favourite for the Forth Challenge Cup, and turned for home with a clear lead. Royal Gaye steadily reduced her advantage, but never quite looked like catching her, and went under by a length.

Newbury programme

[Television (BBC 2): 2.30, 3.0, 3.35 and 4.5 races]

2.0 WHATCOMBE HURDLE (Div I: novices: £1,020: 2m 100yd)

12022 Farmer, R. Hawker, 5-11-11 E. Wade 4
12023 Mellard, J. G. Gifford, 5-11-11 E. Wade 4
12024 Capadocia, R. Hogg, 5-11-11 J. F. Hancock 4
12025 Norman Emperor, S. E. Gifford, 5-11-11 J. F. Hancock 4
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SPORT
Football

Gray's Wembley hopes receive a lift

Andy Gray, the Wolverhampton Wanderers striker, who is under the threat of missing the League Cup final through suspension, was given hope of a reprieve yesterday. He will appear before an FA commission next Wednesday after reaching 20 points and a ban would then mean that the match against Nottingham Forest at Wembley on March 15.

The Football League announced that they could not rearrange a match on the Saturday before the final so that Gray could serve any suspension before Wembley. But, yesterday, the FA commission were lenient with Sunderland, of Arsenal, issuing a warning instead of a ban.

Sunderland appeared before the commission in London for totalling 20 disciplinary points. He was warned about his future conduct and can play in the FA Cup sixth round at Watford tomorrow week. It won't happen again," Sunderland, who has never been suspended, said.

Gillingham's defender, Barker, was also left off with a warning after reaching 20 points and now Gray hopes that his good disciplinary record will help him as a full-time player in the Arsenal. Barker received a one-match suspension and misses Saturday's home game against West Bromwich Albion.

McAndrew, of Middlesbrough, is also ruled out of the match at Wolves on Saturday. Ball and McAndrew had each collected 20 points but both have worse records than Gray, whose only serious offence was to be sent off during Scotland's international in Czechoslovakia in 1976.

Gray reached 20 points with a booking at Norwich last Saturday. A suspension of one match was given for Wolves and Forest have no game that day because they were scheduled to meet clubs in the FA Cup.

Blackpool parted company with their manager, Stan Ternent, their coach, Dave Hutton, and their reserve team manager, Dave Hutton, strong, yesterday. Ball is expected to sign as the club's new manager and the likely coach is Ted Macdonald, of Burnmouth.

Ternent, who was on a contract to the end of the season, was formerly coach at Bloomfield. He was suspended for one match after Bob Stokoe left on the eve of the season.

Portland Timbers, of the North American Soccer League, have signed Collier, Coventry City's unsuspended defender, for £365,000. Coventry bought him from Bristol City last summer but a tribunal order decided by a tribunal under



Sunderland: free to face Watford in the FA cup.

the freedom of contract procedure, ruling York in Wednesday night's 4-3 victory over Coventry. Gray's suspension was further trouble from his broken toe, and although his booking could take him beyond his second suspension of the season, the ban will not be until after their FA Cup tie against Liverpool. But, he missed the game with the groin strain, which has dogged him for several weeks, should line up with York on Saturday against Leeds United.

Swansea City have made an offer for the Welsh international Leigh James, transferred from Burnley. John Toshack, Swansea's player-manager, said he had spoken to Burnley's manager, Brian Miller, earlier this week. Mr Toshack said it was no secret that he had been interested in James for some months. "That kind of player would take some of

leagues at the Edinburgh Easter Road ground.

Coventry's manager, Gordon Milne, flew to Germany last night to conclude the financial details in the signing of FC Cologne's Belgian international winger, Roger van Laack. The player will return to Coventry on Sunday and the signing will be completed, subject to a medical, on Monday. The fee is £250,000.

Watford have rejected an offer to move their Vicarage Road ground to Milton Keynes. But the club, which is in the Borough Council's decision to reject two proposals for a new stadium within the borough are now considering moving out of the town. Eton John, the chairman, said: "We have had two years of negotiations with the council and it has cost us £30,000 in feasibility studies and architectural fees. We have been told all along the line that after two years they now tell us that commercial development is incompatible with the planning for the town."

Wednesday's results

First division					
Aston Villa (1)	2	Manchester City (0)	2	0	0
Derby (1)	2	Sheff Wed (0)	0	0	0
Sheff Wed (1)	2	Sheff Wed (0)	0	0	0
Sheff Wed (1)	2	Sheff Wed (0)	0	0	0
Sheff Wed (1)	2	Sheff Wed (0)	0	0	0

Second division					
Sheff Wed (1)	2	Sheff Wed (0)	0	0	0
Sheff Wed (1)	2	Sheff Wed (0)	0	0	0
Sheff Wed (1)	2	Sheff Wed (0)	0	0	0
Sheff Wed (1)	2	Sheff Wed (0)	0	0	0
Sheff Wed (1)	2	Sheff Wed (0)	0	0	0

Third division					
Sheff Wed (1)	2	Sheff Wed (0)	0	0	0
Sheff Wed (1)	2	Sheff Wed (0)	0	0	0
Sheff Wed (1)	2	Sheff Wed (0)	0	0	0
Sheff Wed (1)	2	Sheff Wed (0)	0	0	0
Sheff Wed (1)	2	Sheff Wed (0)	0	0	0

the pressure off me and his name-sake Robbie James," he said. The fee being considered is £150,000. Tottenham Hotspur's gamble of international midfielder player, may miss tomorrow's home match with Manchester United because of the sudden death of his father. Ipswich's manager, Bobby Robson, said the final decision would be left to Watford. If he decided not to play Mills would move into midfield with Beattie coming in at left-back.

George Best, who has admitted he has a drink problem, was back in training with Hibernian yesterday. Hibernian's secretary, Cecil Graham, said: "I had a meal with George and his wife last night. The boy just wants a bit of peace and to be kept out of the limelight if at all possible. He loves to play football, and wants to play. He is looking very fit. He will be joined by Fulham this week. He joined his Hibernian team col-

Motor racing

Spectacular crash mars official practice

Kyalami, South Africa, Feb. 28. The first official practice for Saturday's South African Grand Prix was marred today when the Swiss driver, Mark Surer, had a spectacular crash. Meanwhile, the two turbo-charged Renaults carved out more than a second's lead over the rest of the field.

Surer, aged 28, failed to negotiate a corner on the back section of the 2.5 mile circuit and smashed head-on into the trackside wall. He was trapped by the legs for half an hour before being flown to a Johannesburg hospital, apparently with a badly broken left leg. He is reported to have said that his leg had felt "like lead".

Back in the pits other teams were contemplating the morose-sapping speed of the turbo-Renaults, driven by the Frenchmen, Jean-Pierre Jabouille and René Arnoux. Jabouille clocked an official lap time of one minute 10.00 seconds to lead the scramble for pole position on Saturday. It was a full four seconds faster than the lap record set in last year's race by the winner, Gilles Villeneuve of Canada, in a Ferrari.

Arnoux, who, in his third lap, recorded a time of 1:02.1, a Ford-powered Rebaud, was third fastest today with a time of 1:11.7. Other impressive times were recorded by the Ligiers of Frenchmen Jacques Laffite and Didier Pironi. They clocked 1:11.88 and 1:12.2, respectively. Six and seven after the session, the Williams driven by the Argentine, Carlos Reutemann, and Nelson Piquet (Brazil) in a Ferrari were only eighth best and their nearest rivals, the Ligiers, were 12th and 13th, respectively.

Stevens looked extremely sharp as he beat Lars Wengberg (Sweden), 15-5, and on the evening's final doubles they lost to the runner-up in the 1978 and 1979 in the All-England Championships, the Japanese pair of Hiroshi Ishida and Hiroe Yuki, a former All-England singles champion. —Agence France

Squash rackets

Miss Smith outmanoeuvred by Australian rival

By Rex Bellamy

Squash Rackets Correspondent Susan Cogswell (Birmingham) runner-up in 1974 and 1975, and Vicki Hoffmann (Adelaide), runner-up in 1976, had the final of the British women's Coral Squash Club, Hove. Miss Cogswell is seeded first but 18 consecutive years.

In the semi-final round on Wednesday night Miss Cogswell beat Margaret Zacharias (Melbourne), 3-2, and Miss Hoffmann defeated Angela Smith (Stoke-on-Trent), 7-9, 9-2, 2-2. Ten days earlier had two had the first round match at Edgworth that yesterday one of the Squash Rackets Association's A-grade referees, Geoffrey Edwards, of the Cheshire on a cheap day return to ensure that the "replay" would be firmly handled.

There were still too many late and penalty points were told to make every effort to give each other room to play the ball. But the match was a hard-fought one on the Edgworth borders. It developed into a tactical contest between Miss Smith's fierce, low-

hitting and Miss Hoffmann's inaccurate, high and accurate, accurate blend of the drop and lob.

Miss Smith just had the better of the first game, in which she won 12 winners, more of them on the forehand. Miss Hoffmann had to travel too far too fast too often. She was always running, bending and stretching. But in the second game Miss Hoffmann took command by staying in the rallies at great expense of energy and using the drop and lob routine to perfection. Of her 11 winners, nine were drops—seven of them on the backhand.

With only slight variations in the pattern (in the second game Miss Smith contributed to her own downfall with errors and penalty strokes) that was the story of the rest of the match. The last game was interrupted for more than two minutes when Miss Hoffmann fell awkwardly and hurt a knee.

Miss Cogswell played a superb match notable for the soundness and variety of her play. She used a wide range of short and long shots, a variety of pace, a fast backhand and a powerful forehand. She was always positive in attack.

Rowing

Skillful steering not enough to deny Keble

By a Special Correspondent

Oriel duly rowed over at the head on the second day of Oxford University Torpids. Bailiol was a good four lengths behind them. This would seem to indicate that, as far as the tide is concerned, this year's event is all over but the rowing. The tide is the tide for the runners-up position.

Keble moved up to third as a result of a long-awaited bump on Worcester, whose Cox gave them a good run for their money by skillfully eluding his faster pursuers until 200 metres from home. The bump was a result of Exeter's rudder but were denied their second bump in two days, and the only other change in the first division came when University caught New College in the Gut to add to the bump they made on St Edmund Hall on Wednesday.

The second division very nearly produced a full house of bumps with only the sandwich boat, Bailiol, failing to register their mark. The decline of Magdalen, bumped by Brasenose and Osler House, continued.

Badminton

New doubles team give England early lead

By Richard Streeton

England gained a narrow lead over Sweden and Malaysia when the third day of badminton matches, sponsored by Debenhams, began at Preston on Wednesday night. The 10,000 crowd, the first of the season, saw a men's singles and a straightforward international match with a point.

It was the relatively new doubles pairing of Derek Talbot (Northumbria) and Kevin Jolly (London) who played the best match of the evening. The Swedish runner-up in the 1978 European championships, was the first player to complete his preliminary singles matches and he won both his matches. Ray Stevens and Jolly won the only singles they played. Talbot, 14-12, 15-12, and Jolly, 15-12, 15-12.

Talbot therefore did his bit for England's overall cause against known form when he took the first game from Kihlstrom. Talbot was behind 1-0, but levelled before losing the set. In the closing stages, Kihlstrom to all parts of the court and Jolly looked extremely sharp as he beat Lars Wengberg (Sweden), 15-5, and on the evening's final doubles they lost to the runner-up in the 1978 and 1979 in the All-England Championships, the Japanese pair of Hiroshi Ishida and Hiroe Yuki, a former All-England singles champion. —Agence France

Hockey

England seek revenge

From Sydney Friskin

Zurich, Feb. 28. The indoor skills of seven nations—West Germany, Netherlands, Spain, Austria, and Scotland—will be put to the test in the European championship, starting here tomorrow at the luxurious Sporthallen. The event, which marks the sixtieth anniversary of the Swiss Hockey Association.

The next three days, excessive demands will be made on the exertions of each team committed to a round-robin tournament in which England will play one match tomorrow, three on Saturday and two on Sunday.

As in Berlin (1974) and Arnhem (1976), we may expect the first two places to go to West Germany and the Netherlands respectively and a look at the composition of the teams suggests that the superiority of the Germans.

The Dutch look a little unbalanced without Doyen, who has knee trouble and Ron Steens, still

with Tim Stegus, Van Eljk and Janssens to help them. Their resources seem strong enough to keep their chances alive.

Recent results point to a contest between England and Scotland for the title. In the 1976 European championship, starting here tomorrow at the luxurious Sporthallen. The event, which marks the sixtieth anniversary of the Swiss Hockey Association.

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Latest European snow reports

	Depth (cm)	Plate	Conditions	Run to	Weather (°C)
Andorra	55	210	Good	Varied	Fair
Excellent skiing on north slopes					
Courmayeur	170	300	Fair	Varied	Fair
North facing slopes icy					
Grindavall	30	130	Good	Varied	Fair
Good skiing on upper slopes					
Isola 2,000	105	145	Fair	Varied	Good
Hard packed snow on pistes					
Münster	170		Fair	Crust	Fair
Fair skiing on piste					
St Anton	50	180	Good	Varied	Fair
Spring skiing conditions					
Sefeld	40	135	Fair	Varied	Fair
Hard packed snow on piste					
Zermatt			Good	Varied	Fair
Some powder still available					
In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, a refers to lower slopes and to upper slopes. The following reports were received from other sources:					
Germany					
Bretzfelden	15	95	Worm	Fine	-2
Garmisch	30	150	Worm	Fine	-2
Grindelwald	90	300	Fair	Fine	-2
Ischgl	100	300	Fair	Fine	-2
Obertauern	150	300	Fair	Fine	-2
St. Anton	100	300	Fair	Fine	-2
Switzerland					
Alpe d'Huez	100	300	Fair	Fine	-2
Chamonix	100	300	Fair	Fine	-2
Grindelwald	100	300	Fair	Fine	-2
Ischgl	100	300	Fair	Fine	-2
Obertauern	100	300	Fair	Fine	-2
St. Anton	100	300	Fair	Fine	-2
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Ischgl	100	300	Fair	Fine	-2
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St. Anton	100	300	Fair	Fine	-2

Tennis

McEnroe recovers to win

McEnroe, Tennessee, Feb. 28.

The 20-year-old American, who survived a 6-0 beating in the first set to defeat his fellow American, Ferdi Taygan, 6-3, 6-1, and then the fourth round, lost to United States indoor champion, "I don't ever remember losing to a man in a row since I started playing," McEnroe said. "It may have been the worst tennis I've ever played," Taygan, 34, said. "I was playing well before and lost in three sets, said: "McEnroe's poor start was probably not because of my play but because he was playing so well, it was that he wasn't doing much of anything."

The second and third seeds, Jimmy Connors and Roscoe Tanner, both won their matches. Connors, who has won the tournament in the past two years, overcame the Czechoslovakian, Ivan Lendl, 6-3, 6-1, and then defeated Erik van Dillen, 6-1, 6-3. In other matches the ninth seed, Victor Amey, beat Charles Foster, 6-3, 6-1, and the 10th seed, Wojtek Fibak, of Poland, beat John Kriek, of South Africa, 6-3, 6-1.

The first seed, Harold Solomon, beat Tom Gorman, 6-4, 7-6, and the Australian, Paul McNamee, defeated Andrei Panfilov, of Soviet Union, 6-3, 6-1, and the 11th seed, Rod Fawley, 6-4, 7-5. —Reuter

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ENTERTAINMENTS

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THE ARTS

The seven-year nightmare of survival

The Onion Field (X)
ABC Shaftesbury Av.

Song of the Shirt
ICA Cinema

Jazz and Blues season
National Film Theatre

Joseph Wambaugh was so impressed by the way Robert Altman filmed his novel *The Onion Field* that he decided that the next time one of his books was filmed, he would be in charge. Although he does not receive a credit as the producer of *The Onion Field*, it was Wambaugh who bought back the rights to his book and raised the money for the film to be made by the director Harold Becker as he wanted.

It is a rare case of an author fighting back against the often insensitive and predatory film industry. Wambaugh says that it is a faithful representation of his documentary novel *The Onion Field*, which, like Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood*, is based upon actual events and written after extensive research. The book describes the murder in 1963 of a Los Angeles policeman by two petty thieves, their subsequent trial and the lasting psychological agony of the policeman who survived the crime.

Careful casting has matched the actors James Woods and Franklin Seales to the parts of the two killers, Greg Powell and Jimmy Smith, and the like-nesses are uncanny. After a little police background, in which the two patrolmen are shown as upright, reliable citizens and the two crooks are made to look grotesque, the awful night is reconstructed.

The thieves are on their way to a robbery and are stopped by a patrolman. The policeman is gunpoint to drive into the country. There, up a dirt track in the middle of an onion field, they shoot one of the



Herteringer (John Savage) forced to relinquish his revolver in *The Onion Field*.

patrolman dead, on the false assumption that, since the crime carries with it the death penalty, the second policeman scrambles to safety. Until the capture of the murderers the film is a fine police thriller, admirably down-to-earth and as real as a screen crime can be. But from then, roughly halfway through, the film becomes bogged down in Wambaugh's moralizing. As a former policeman, he is keen to emphasize the difficulty of proving the pair guilty, even though they both admit to being present and one even confesses to the murder.

American justice drags on for seven years while the prisoners delay their execution by passing with a seemingly endless sequence of appeals and retrials. Lawyers despair and the surviving policeman becomes suicidal at having repeatedly to relive for juries the night in the onion field when he ran for his life and as he wonders to what extent he

was responsible for his colleague's death. This exploration of his own guilt might have provided a human centre for the story but Wambaugh has not been so thin and played with such cold efficiency by John Savage. With the other policeman a stoic Californian Scot, only the killers appear attractive. And, as amusing as their flaws are sometimes allowed to seem, it did not suit Wambaugh to make them appear sympathetic. So the film, for all its gritty authenticity and sober integrity, rarely becomes engrossing.

Wambaugh's earnest, partisan portrayal of the unhappy policeman's lot has caused him to overlook the best part of this sad story: how the ill-educated and self-deluding Powell managed to persuade a number of cheap crooks to adulterate him, and then, having been caught, how he was able to eloquently and proficiently to mount his own defence. He was a poor thief but a splendid actor and,

by the end of the film, he has become a knowledgeable, self-educated lawyer.

The Onion Field is an attempt to force the pendulum in cinema away from the portrayal of crooks and murderers as romantic heroes in favour of the honest cop. But, in films as in life, policemen rarely stand such generous promotion. Those who break the law are more interesting than those who keep and protect it, not least because they are out of the ordinary. And, like the contingent of Metropolitan Police who roared with laughter at the sick antics of their Los Angeles counterparts during the press show of Aldrich's *The Choirboys*, policemen rarely live up to the image laid down in *The Blue Lamp*.

Film history is spattered with the bodies of those who fell foul of cinema tyrants, be they sadistic directors or philistine producers. Whatever the merits of individual cases, there is little doubt that films

are best made by a single dictator. If he is benign, so much the better. Heavens forbid the day when films are made by committee.

A vision of what that horrifying future might bring is provided by *Song of the Shirt*, extensively directed by Susan Clifton and Jonathan Curling but, according to the credits, the product of a cooperative effort which spanned many educational institutions, individuals and pressure groups, collectively called The Film for History Project. So many opinions were heard and, sadly, so many taken notice of, that the film lasts 135 minutes.

It is an exaggeration to say that the film is at best twice as long as it might have been. Indeed, if shorter, it would have been far more effective in putting across its garbled interpretation of the misadventure of the poor women during the last century. To keep themselves from the workhouse, women were obliged to accept insulting levels of pay for their needlework or turn to prostitution.

If the collective film makers' hearts are in the right place, then their eyes must certainly be not. Their film defies the first principles of cinematic narrative and argument, throwing fiction and fact, video and film, history and present day together so that confusion is the only antidote to boredom. It is as if Charles Kingsley had bundled a pile of assorted documents, tables, sketches and blank paper instead of writing *Yeats and Alton Locke*.

The National Film Theatre area, from tomorrow, celebrating the work of TCB Releasing, a British film distributor founded in 1972 which specializes in films about jazz and the blues. If all the films to be shown in the next three weeks are as competent, informative and enjoyable as *To the Camp of David*, the first film which they have co-produced, the season will be a treat for jazz lovers, as it contains film of just about every major jazz and blues musician.

Nicholas Wapshott
David Robinson is at the Berlin Film Festival.

The Loud Boy's Life Warehouse

Irving Wardle

Managers may emigrate to Nice, the West End be plunged in darkness and Saudi Arabian spectaculars take over the National Theatre, but there will always be a new Howard Barker play at the Warehouse. True to form, *The Loud Boy's Life* runs for three hours, the black and forth in its characterizations, and exhibits the rich and powerful of the land with their trousers down. The theme this time is the rise and fall of one Ezra Fricker (practically the only non-joke name in the cast), son of a lay preacher who quits the wartime intelligence service to terrorise Westminster as a right-wing Tory MP with a massive populist following, only to be passed over for the premiership and promptly fall dead.

My first thought is that surely this cannot be Enoch Powell yet again: but if not, it is hard to think of any other model, and if Fricker is an elderly, inverted character it is hard to see just where his appeal is 'opposed to lie for the poster'. You're the only loud boy we've got' chorus a group of wealthy tooligans who invade him into a striptease at their annual dinner as a prelude to showering him with campaign funds.

Clive Morrison plays him with shoulders drawn up to his ears and features clenched around a crafty twinkle, which accords well enough with the character as written: a cold-blooded Narcissus whose intense personal vanity shades into the sense of historical destiny, but who never drops a single phrase, much less any sketch of a policy, that explains his alleged mesmeric hold over the country.

The locations, which include Greenwich Park during a 1942 air raid, the House of Commons and the crypt of St Paul's (where Ezra is due to be laid to rest in the next niche to T. E. Lawrence), follow Barker's usual taste for the specific; and, as usual, I cannot connect them with the world I know, any more than I can follow the transition between Ezra the sexually inhibited young subaltern, and Ezra the republican VIP.

Barker is equipped to a rare survivor from the original cast, her gauche, frumpy American tourist now sympathetically partnered by Derek Funnell as the crew who gives her sentimental shipboard memory.

Among the newcomers to the cast, Chenna Williams makes a snaky Theda Bara, Stephen Wicks a gothic Bernard Shaw, and Iain Webb shakes a nimble toe as a Neapolitan stowaway.

The baller's best section is the sequence of moonlit flirtations: the only time a thread of plot develops from the impersonation of a dancer from the dancers just do their own numbers with no real interaction. The climax comes with Desmond Kelly mouthing the words of "Half-caste woman" to Noel Coward's recording. Big deal.

The programme began with MacMillan's *Concerto*, in which Galina Samosova's ballerina arms

in that movement, as again in the finale, scoured forced, with insufficient clarity of texture or tonal shading.

He was more successful with the trio of the Scherzo, even if not holding quite enough in reserve for its *molto pesante* climax. However it was in the sonata's less technically demanding Andante, based on an old German Minnelied, that he was most in his element.

Jumping some forty years on to the six Klavierstücke of Op 118, he again allowed tone to coarsen and accentuation to grow over-inconsistent in the heightened excitement of the stormy No 3 and in the stirring middle section of No 6. His lack of finesse in the intimate sections of that last piece was a still bigger disappointment.

But he found a mellower kind of ardour and tenderness for the first two pieces in A minor and A major, the second more winning than anything else he played. To end, he chose the two middle-period Rhapsodies of Op 79, showing signs of tiredness in a memory lapse or two as well as passing technical discomfort, though never slackening in pursuit of the requested agitation and passion.

Several commentators have pointed to the "Hammerklavier" as the inspirational source of the first movement, and certainly it was that kind of size and drive that Mr Seeman seemed to be after. But burlly Brahmsian as he was, too much

of poet, devoured by ideals too shalw who sustain love.

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Opera: in Wales and West Germany

Eugene Onegin

New Theatre, Cardiff

William Mann

How often I have seen or heard a performance of Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* which had obviously grown from a desire to revive that lovely score, not because the ideal cast was available. Welsh National Opera's new production looks to have started with the idea of casting Josephine Barstow as Tatjana and Thomas Allen in the same part. Neither had sung the role before; both seemed perfectly suited.

On the evidence of the first performance in Cardiff this week, one might deduce that WNO next booked a producer with a rich, bold sense of visual

poetry, the Romanian Andrei Serban (discussed in a recent article on this page), though he had not produced an opera before, then perhaps the Soviet conductor Mark Ermler. The stage designer, Michael Yeargan from Texas, must have been Serban's choice: he, too, has challenging and illuminating ideas about the atmosphere of *Onegin*.

That seems to be an intelligent way to plan a new production of an opera whose centenary has brought out a clutch of them from various companies. The WNO *Onegin* is not merely acceptable, but an outstanding blend of sensitive music-making, well balanced and interesting characters on stage, and a procession of stage-pictures far beyond the everyday purview of opera production, some of them as unforgettable in visionary imagination as the most beautiful cinematic shots you can remember.

The first act is based on a cornfield. The sisters sing their opening duet as they amble through it, later joined by the two older ladies, musically the scene does not work, because the pairs of voices should be carefully distanced, but it does suit the peasants' rite just afterwards, animated dance in front, stately retreating behind, and how the WNO chorus responds to Tchaikovsky's employment of chorus in these unpretentious "lyric scenes", fervently yet under proper control for each situation.

The cornfield is still there for the Letter Scene, outside a sketched Tatjana's simple bedroom. At first it looks an economical solution. When her letter is finished, she walks out into the field as the sun rises, and her rapt stroll, often pausing, carries moving overtones of burgeoning girlhood, romantic dreams and more besides.

There is comparable visual imagination throughout the spectacular use of a scrim for Mme Larina's ball, and the degree of informality there: the manner of Lensky's death, walking normally towards Onegin until he slumps in his murderer's arms; the visible, off-stage presence of Tatjana during Gremio's aria about his love for her; the end of the opera, Tatjana's front door firmly closed on Onegin outside.

It is a magical feat of stagecraft, chiefly achieved by the expert use of Miss Barstow, and the scenic ideas are geared to the actors of the leading roles. At Covent Garden the other day, the several interpretations did not blend; here they do. Crucially, Tatjana, played by Barstow, is vocally and in behaviour, a delectable Olga. Anthony Rolfe-Johnson a charming young Bezukhov type

at all, the music lying comfortably on a glorious baritone, expertly used. Miss Barstow, the poised aristocratic wife, and unites them, her voice as intelligent as ever, but more beautiful and expressive than expected. Crucially, Tatjana, played by Barstow, is vocally and in behaviour, a delectable Olga. Anthony Rolfe-Johnson a charming young Bezukhov type

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Josephine Barstow as Tatjana.

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BBCSO/Loughran Festival Hall/Radio 3

Paul Griffiths

Sir Clifford Curzon on Wednesday was the recipient of what he quite properly described as "the highest award in the whole world of music". It was not the Nobel Prize, but the medal of the Royal Philharmonic Society. There to present it, or rather to thrust it into his hands with bashful informality, was a previous gold medalist of the society, Sir Michael Tippett, who drew particular attention to Sir Clifford's performances of Mozart and Beethoven.

Sir Clifford might have wished he had not had to demonstrate his worthiness immediately before the ceremony, but in the event his performance of Beethoven's fourth concerto, with the BBC Symphony Orchestra under James Loughran, was many of the qualities which have won him the highest esteem.

There was nothing forced or mannered in the playing, yet phrase after phrase was illuminated as if by some subtle, tone or accentuation in his crisp elegance. Then there were those fine changes of colour in perfect response to changes in the harmonic movement, and throughout the performance, most especially that sense of the piano as the vehicle for all that speaks most in music of grace and intelligence.

At the beginning of the concert there had been another concerto, Thea Musgrave's for orchestra. Twelve years ago when this was new it attracted attention for having several players, even whole groups, get up to their feet in the last of the five sections, but this time round the assertions of individuality seemed quite unconvincing.

There scarcely needs one's eyes to tell when clarnets, flutes and the other unruly backbenches are departing on their own paths: the visual reinforcement just makes a potentially strong climax obvious, reducing a real musical force to empty rhetoric. However, the effect of an orchestra at this point in open disarray might have been much greater if the previous development had been more purposefully urged. Mr Loughran wound up the tension well enough for every new run in the work's ladder of tempos, but each time he failed to keep the momentum going right through to the next jump, and so the feeling of a grand acceleration was missed.

There followed Elgar's *Fantasy*, an excessively unbuttoned, rumbustious reading that did scant justice to the third RPS laureate of the evening.

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No threat to Welsh National's exchange visit to
The possibility of a worsening political situation in Europe presents no threat to the exchange visits of the Welsh National Opera to East Germany and the Leipzig Opera to Cardiff and Birmingham. This was stated yesterday by Brian McMaster, general administrator of the Welsh company.

East Germany
in Cardiff on June 3 and in Birmingham on June 10. It will be the first visit of a major foreign company to either city. They will bring Handel's *Xerxes* and Mozart's *Titus*. The Welsh National will take *Elektra*, *Ernani* and *The Turn of the Screw*. McMaster called it a "marathon operation".

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As the hours ebb away for President Tito, Sir Fitzroy Maclean assesses the indomitable spirit of the man whose leadership shaped his country over 40 critical years

The ruthless fighter who kept Russia at bay

President Tito's outstanding qualities as a leader cannot be in question. A lesser man would, like his sometime adversary, General Mihajlovic, almost inevitably have been swept away by the "gale of the world".

President Tito, for his part, has known how to ride the storms. Each crisis, each emergency, has carried him further on his way.

What has been the secret of his success? Courageous, resolute, clear thinking and, when necessary, utterly ruthless, he has known how to ride the storms. Each crisis, each emergency, has carried him further on his way.

In August 1968, a score of years after President Tito's break with Moscow, it was certainly on the cards that, having subdued Czechoslovakia, the Soviet army would seek to finish the task by doing the same to Yugoslavia. President Tito, as he explained to me afterwards, was taking no chances. He knew the Russians too well for that.

The Soviet ambassador called the complaint of Yugoslavia an open support to the Czechs. He had hardly opened his mouth before President Tito rang for his Chief of Cabinet to tell the ambassador out. "I will not," he said, "be spoken to in this way." And, to the retreating he said, "You can tell your people in Moscow that if they come anywhere near us, we will fight them for 20 years."

It is conceivable that if, over the years, other, bigger powers, had adopted an equally resolute attitude, the course of recent history might have been different.

That President Tito's own personality and force of character have played a decisive part in

the events of the last 40 years is indisputable but that is only part of the picture. He could not have done what he did without the help of a large number of able and dedicated men and women, many of whom survive him, or, indeed, without the support of the great mass of Yugoslav people. Nor would he have enjoyed that support, had he not himself been a typical Yugoslav.

From the first his indomitable courage, his independent spirit, his stubbornness, his intense national pride and his steady nerves found a ready echo in the ordinary Yugoslav man in the street or on the hillside, and this augurs well for the future.

No less than President Tito, the Yugoslav people value the country which he has helped them to build up from the terrible destruction of the war years, the high standard of living they now enjoy and the independence which for more than 20 years he helped them to preserve, and they are determined, come what may, to defend it with all they have. It is, in my view, a pretty good prospect of success.

Like other countries, Yugoslavia has, it is true, a high rate of inflation. Like other governments, the government of Yugoslavia periodically takes measures to check it. Meanwhile, as a glance around the shops clearly shows, the needs of the consumer are being abundantly catered for and the consumer, quite frankly, likes it that way.

"We are not dogmatists," President Tito said to me recently. "We are concerned with making things work." Whatever its weaknesses, the Yugoslav economic system, which is unlike any other in the world, certainly delivers the goods and most people would not want to see it changed.

It would have been very unlike President Tito, essentially a realist, to neglect the question of his succession.

This is something he discussed with me more than once. The answer he found lay not in any one man (potential candidates did not share his durability) but rather in a collective leadership, which, as President Tito said publicly five or six years ago, seemed the best way of avoiding a possible scramble for power and the dangers attendant on it.

For the past nine years this has taken the form of a party and a State presidium, each carefully designed to represent the six different republics and two autonomous areas of the federation plus a representative of the army, and both presided over by the President himself.

In practice a "forum" composed of leading members of these two bodies has for some time past been successfully running the country under President Tito's overall and often fairly remote supervision.

Thus in foreign policy the guiding influence has been that of Miroslav Mincic, one of the Serbian members of the party presidium, who, without ever being provocative, has shown himself at least as robust as President Tito in his attitude towards the Russians. The aim of Yugoslav policy remains to achieve a workable relationship with the Soviet government, which at the same time takes the fullest account of Yugoslavia's complete independence and equality

of status as an independent power. Any future Soviet attempts to represent Russia as Yugoslavia's natural protector are unlikely to carry any more conviction with Mr Mincic and his colleagues than they have done with President Tito. As far as the non-aligned world is concerned, Mr Mincic has always insisted that it must really be non-aligned, and as he himself put it at the eleventh party congress in 1978, that the Soviet Union must not be regarded as the natural ally of the non-aligned countries, nor the United States.

At the non-aligned conference at Havana last year it seemed questionable whether this view had prevailed. But since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the Yugoslav view of non-alignment has found ready response in the most unexpected quarters.

Mr Mincic is a Serb. In the collective leadership Croatia is represented by Dr Vladimir Bakarić, a man of considerable standing and great experience who has in practice presided over since the war and guided it successfully.

Through more than one domestic crisis, in so far as these were the result of Croat nationalism, it can, I think, be said that he now has the measure of the nationalists whose grievances have largely disappeared, and it is worth noting that in 1973 a score of heavily armed emigre terrorists were infiltrated into Croatia from abroad to start an insurrection, they received no encouragement whatever from the local population who simply sent for the police to remove them.

A third member of the forum is Stane Dolanc, an able, dynamic Slovene who emerged some

10 years ago as a protégé of

Edvard Kardelj (much missed since his death last year) and has of recent years been one of President Tito's closest associates. All three are completely committed to the present highly pragmatic policy of decentralization and liberalization.

In practice these three have for some years been governing Yugoslavia with the cooperation of leading personalities from the other republics, such as Lazar Kolisevski from Macedonia, at present vice-president.

President Tito's approval has in fact only been sought over major policy decisions and in practice never withheld. There is thus no reason to suppose that they will not prove perfectly capable of continuing to govern it on their own. Certainly during the past critical weeks their management of affairs and the steadiness of their nerves have won universal admiration and inspired total confidence.

To complete the picture mention should be made of the Yugoslav armed forces, which for the past ten years have been under the control of General Nikola Ljubicic, the Minister of Defence. All three services are well trained and well equipped. What is more, the scope of the regular army itself, a first-class fighting force of more than a quarter of a million men, is greatly extended by a genuinely territorial army of a further three million men, whose principal role in the event of an invasion would be to wage a prolonged guerrilla war in the mountains where their fathers and grandfathers fought so bravely and successfully four decades ago.

Thus, while an invader might by the use of overwhelming force eventually succeed in seizing and even holding the main towns of Yugoslavia, he would then find himself pitted against a people in arms with an unsurpassed tradition of guerrilla resistance and aptitude for it.

Yugoslavia today is no less well equipped to meet the possible threat of subversion. It seems improbable that there are many Yugoslavs who would seriously like to see their country pass under Soviet or any other suzerainty. Nor, for nearly ten years, has there been any sign of an active separatist movement in Croatia or anywhere else, but in any case, General Frunjo Herljevic, a Croat from Bosnia with a distinguished military career and more than ten years of experience as minister of the interior, presides over an extremely alert security service which keeps an eagle eye on any potential subversive or terrorist elements in Yugoslavia.

Nothing unites the Yugoslavs like an external threat. Three months ago it might have been argued that no such threat existed, that the Brezhnev doctrine was a thing of the past. Inevitably the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan has made people realize that the use of the Soviet army against an independent non-aligned country in furtherance of Soviet political and strategic aims is a possibility which must at all times be reckoned with.

While nerves remain steady, there can be no doubt that here, as elsewhere in the non-aligned world, the events of the past six weeks have had an enlightening and, at the same time, distinctly tonic effect.

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Geoffrey Smith

Why the Government needs the homely touch

One of the weaknesses of the present Government is that it has no social policy. It has a number of social policies, but that is not the same thing. There is no coordinating theme, no broad approach to social affairs for which Mrs Thatcher's administration stands in the eyes of the general public. This is partly because the Government is determined to restrict public expenditure, and so much of the social policy of all governments these days consists of sending pounds to chase problems. When there are fewer pounds to spend it is difficult to make much of a play with social policy.

But lack of money is not the only explanation. This is an administration that is so preoccupied with economic and foreign affairs that it has little political and nervous energy to spare for social matters. A Conservative social policy, the course of which would obviously rule out the reallocation of resources within a given total.

In an article to be published in the March issue of *Tory Reform*, Mr John Fatten, the new MP for Oxford, suggests that the Govern-

ment's social theme ought to be the development of family policy.

"The great debate in the Tory Party today on social policy," he declares, "should be centred on how we can help the family." I must confess that the term "great debate" in this context seems to me an exaggeration to be pardoned only in a praiseworthy politician. But the idea is an interesting one. The theme is one that the Conservatives tried to develop in opposition without quite getting it off the ground. What would have to be done if it is to have a better fate now that they are in office?

The first requirement is obviously to have individual social policies that could be fitted into such a framework. They have some already, as Mr Fatten suggests, only we do not think of them in this light. In education the emphasis is upon parental choice and upon standards in schools. The sale of council houses is a response to family pride and the desire to provide for the future. A tourist simply always travel "first class" (as opposed to "hard class"), but there is a choice of four-berth or two-berth compartments, the latter of course being more expensive. The best trains sport—apart from the toilets, the let-down of all Soviet institutions. The huge enclaves usually built in East Germany gleam with chrome and formica inside. And though the bunks are rather narrow, each is provided with two big feather pillows and a thick blanket that fits inside the specially designed top sheet.

Some coaches on the best trains are designed with a wash-room fitted between every two first-class compartments and linked by communicating doors. But you usually have to wait your turn in the queue for the toilets at the end of each coach. It's best not to try walking through to the next coach—the first-class compartments are among the most precarious I have ever

Have the Tories, so preoccupied with economic and foreign affairs, enough energy to spare for social matters?

determining priorities ministers should have greater regard for the theme of the family. A good example is child benefit, which ought at least to be raised in line with other benefits or with tax allowances as the best means of drawing more families out of the clutches of the poverty trap. This is an instance where some relaxation is necessary. But the principal requirement if the theme of family policy is ever to have much political effect is for the Government itself to attach importance to it and to project it strongly. This is not something that can be done by the individual ministers responsible for the social services, education and the environment. They are not sufficiently senior in the Cabinet hierarchy to make the initiative in raising beyond their departmental boundaries to present the Government's social policy as a coherent whole.

Here it is worth casting a thought back to the way in which the Conservative Government organized before it started to crumble through death and illness. It rested on a tripod of senior ministers beneath the Prime Minister. There was Ernest Bevin running foreign affairs; the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether Dalton or Cripps, controlling economic policy; and Herbert Morrison as a general supremo for the rest of home affairs.

This last role was performed by Lord Butler as Home Secretary and leader of the House during most of the Macmillan Government. Once he had ceased to be Chancellor of the Exchequer he did not play a prominent part in the discussion of economic affairs—though he was vice-chairman of the party steering committee that was concerned with the preparation of Conservative policy for nearly two years before the 1959 election—but he is remembered as a superb chairman of the Cabinet home affairs committee, playing a continuing and decisive part in pulling the threads together over the broad range of home policy apart from economics.

This is a vital role in any administration, but it is one that nobody is really filling in the present one. Lord Carrington is running foreign affairs.

There is the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Prime Minister himself plays a dominant part in fashioning economic policy. But there is no home affairs supremo in the broader sense. Mr Whitelaw is the obvious man for the part. He has the necessary seniority to be heard with respect in Cabinet, in Whitehall and outside. He is a conscientious Home Secretary and chairs the Cabinet home affairs committee. But he has not yet assumed the wider role of pulling the threads together and presenting a coherent social policy to the public.

Unless he or some other senior minister does, the sun will remain of a government without a social policy. All prime ministers find their time consumed by the major issues, whether of economics or of foreign policy, and Mrs Thatcher is probably less interested than any of her predecessors in the broad sweep of social affairs.

Her concentration on the country's economic problems is not to be deplored. These must be the central challenge for any government at this time. But they are not the sun and moon of a government's responsibilities. The present administration would certainly be wise to prepare its appeal on a wider front, especially as it cannot be sure of being able to command the theme of "sunny days are here again".

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Why the TUC feels it should not be left out

The Trades Union Congress has recently been likened to a stranded whale—stranded by the refusal of Mrs Thatcher's Government to treat it as a valid partner. What is the TUC's role in the Government's plans to reform the economy? To defend its members' interests, their standard of living and jobs, as best we may, said Mr Len Murray, its ever articulate and affable general secretary, in an interview.

Cheerful though he was, Mr Murray was evidently much put out by the Government's failure to recognize what he saw as a palpable truth: that in any modern industrialized society, the trade unions had a valid role to play in determining economic targets and ways of achieving them.

Instead the Government regarded the unions as a form of environmental pollution which has to be reduced by whatever means are available," Mr Murray said.

"The Government spends half its time accusing us of irresponsibility, and the other half denying us any responsibility."

Unlike its predecessors, it had embarked on policies which would inevitably divide the nation. "They don't see the relevance of trade unions to the management of the economy, or indeed to the management of particular companies. They certainly don't accept the unions as part of any consensus or partnership in the management of the economy or of companies."

"Therefore they don't see any point in inviting unions into any decision-making process." And yet in every industrialized country in the West, and even to some extent in the East, Europe, workers were demanding a piece of the action, Mr Murray said.

We should recognize that the complexity of modern industrial economies and societies required that they be managed in an active way by governments, employers and unions acting in concert, and each accepting their own responsibilities, collectively defining what the objectives of the nation should be, and collectively agreeing on the means to reach those objectives.

The TUC had summed this up in the agreement reached some 12 months ago with the previous Government, the corollary of which was the adoption by TUC of the field of industrial relations, he said. Responsible unions had to be in control of their members. "Mrs Thatcher says she wants to make unions responsible for what they do. But she says the corollary is that the members must do what their unions ask them to do."

"If members decide to go to work when their unions have instructed them to stay away from work, that may not be a justifiable basis for justifying mass picketing. Certainly doesn't justify violence; but would she, or your readers, deny the unions the right to discipline, even to expel these members? They can't have it both ways. Either we are in control or not. Either union members obey instructions, when they are taken properly and democratically by their elected representatives, or they do not."

But did the Government not seem to have a genuine mandate to reduce the unions' freedom of action, notably in industrial disputes? "This Government seems to have pushed the doctrine of the mandate to a point where even the most left-wing member of the Labour Party national executive committee would turn white," said Mr Murray with a smile. He was not over-impressed by the opinion poll which seemed to reinforce this mandate.

If one asked people whether they disapproved of certain types of industrial action, they would say yes by overwhelming majorities. But if they were asked if they favoured wage restraint, "But they will have the mental reservation that it applies to everyone but not to me."

Mr Murray saw various reasons why the Government should want to reduce the role of the unions. The unions interfered with the free flow of market forces. They articulated the demands of workers which were not in the Government's interest. They were a source of industrial unrest.

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policies, amongst which policies one had to include passing in the face of rising unemployment. He was afraid that, despite the Government's apparent desire not to repeat the gross errors of their predecessors in 1971, they were drifting back to the same sort of errors.

Mr Murray thought it was a mistake to try to abstract trade unions from the rest of the body politic. "We must see the qualities and defects of our society," he said. He agreed that German trade unionists had achieved high wages for members while operating under greater constraints than German workers in England. One could not take over a single factor and say it explained the whole.

British workers had behaved responsibly, he pointed out. There had been remarkable changes. The labour force in steel had been halved since nationalization. You name the industry, he said—textiles, agriculture, railways, for example—wherever one looked, there had been enormous shifts in manpower, whole shifts in production from industry to industry and from one part of the country to another.

What seemed to stick in Mr Murray's gullet was the way the Government chose to ignore the human factor in the pursuit of its own dubious logic. British steel was a case in point. The workers at BSC had clearly recognized that some restructuring was inevitable. But, sided and abetted by BSC, the Government had insisted on the achievement of its targets in an incredibly short space of time.

The Government seemed to believe that people could be persuaded to accept technological change more readily by creating large numbers of redundancies. "You can win them, you can persuade them, but if you try to terrify them or terrorize them, you don't get the result." Equally, it seemed to have expected people to accept higher VAT without making compensating wage demands.

We would prefer to be arguing over tables in Downing Street.

All this seemed to make good sense. But did not trade unionists sometimes themselves do what they were complaining about? Could there be any justification for bringing a firm to its knees by secondary picketing and so on when it was not directly involved in a dispute?

Apart from the National Economic Development Council, there is scarcely nowadays a forum in which the TUC can press the Government for such justification, if one excepts Parliament, where many trade unionists sit instead of the TUC is through the House of Commons. "Life when you are involved in decision-making is a damned sight more arduous than merely fighting defensive battles," said Mr Murray nostalgically. "I prefer the bed of nails of involvement to the hair-shirt we have to wear in the House of Commons."

As a substitute for involvement, perhaps, the TUC has called for a "day of action" on May 14 to protest against the Government's policies. "We would prefer to be arguing over tables in Downing Street. But if we can't make the Government hear there, sometimes we have to go out into the streets and make our voices heard that way."

Like children, not trusted by intolerant or snubbing parents. And we all know how difficult they can become.

Roger Berthoud

The spirit of Anna Karenina lives on

As you settle into the Byelorussian coaches long, you have a comforting feeling of returning to a more leisurely past when overnight sleeper was the normal way to travel. The blue express leaves from in every green and white station in central Moscow—painstakingly restored to Tsarist splendour. Beneath the wrought-iron girders and elaborate platform roofs elegant ladies in fur hats, army officers in greatcoats and braids, businessmen and visitors to the capital hasten to their coaches or linger with groups of friends who have come to bid goodbye.

There is that typical acid smell as black smoke billows from little chimneys all along the waiting train. In every coach the charcoal-fired built-in samovars are glowing and steaming. Nowhere does the era of Anna Karenina live on as it does in Russia's great trains.

The platforms are low and the heavily built coaches are high. You show your ticket to the uniformed attendants,

generally women, who wait outside each coach, and then clamber aboard. In winter the platform is luxurious after the bitter frost outside. On the floor of the wide corridor there is usually a druggist to keep the patterned carpet clean. As a tourist you always travel "hard class" (as opposed to "soft class"), but there is a choice of four-berth or two-berth compartments, the latter of course being more expensive. The best trains sport—apart from the toilets, the let-down of all Soviet institutions. The huge enclaves usually built in East Germany gleam with chrome and formica inside. And though the bunks are rather narrow, each is provided with two big feather pillows and a thick blanket that fits inside the specially designed top sheet.

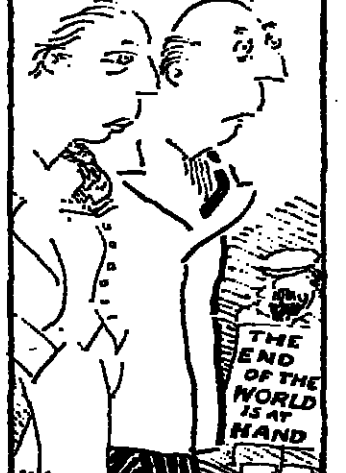
Some coaches on the best trains are designed with a wash-room fitted between every two first-class compartments and linked by communicating doors. But you usually have to wait your turn in the queue for the toilets at the end of each coach. It's best not to try walking through to the next coach—the first-class compartments are among the most precarious I have ever

attempted to cross. Everywhere in the train, as in many hotels, there is a peculiarly sweetish sharp smell, probably from the cleaning fluid that characterizes the Soviet Union.

Winter is the best time to travel. As the train glides out of the station you feel snug looking through the double-glazed windows at the chill white expanse of snow, the wooden villages and the dense birch forests beyond the city suburbs. A glass of tea in a metal holder is always available from the samovar bubbling at the end of the corridor, and biscuits come in soft-class compartments. You can call for a chess set if you are keen. It's always warm enough inside a Russian train, even two hot, even though the train may be coated with snow and icicles when it pulls in the next morning. I travelled to Moscow in December when the outside temperature in the countryside was minus 47 degrees—and inside it was 100 hot to sleep with a blanket on. Russian trains are built for the Russian winter.

All Soviet trains appear to go rather slowly, at a steady 50 miles an hour or so. Most time-tables are arranged so that they

Some people are just incurable optimists...



arrive at around 8.30 the next morning. They take pride in reaching their destinations on the very minute specified—though winter can play havoc even on the main lines.

There seems to be a well-

defined etiquette of travel. Men and women often share four-berth compartments, and gentlemen often travel in the same compartment for the whole journey. Each coach has the local radio station blaring out music at the start of the journey (and if you like western pop music you will be happier travelling to Tallinn in Estonia).

Five minutes before departure an announcement reminds you which train you are on, and asks visitors to leave. Long food platform farewells are still very much the Russian way, though you cannot wave out of the window as most are locked. The radio starts up again when it is time to get up next morning, and glasses of tea appear. Not all the trains are the same. The named expresses, maintaining old traditions of pride and service, are the best. A Russian orthodox parish priest who worked for the railway for 20 years, and was asked his calling once told me the ranking order. He thought the best train in the country was the Moscow-Riga express, on this you can actually order a attendant to your compartment.

Second comes Moscow-

Leningrad, the famous "Red Arrow". This train runs on the old dead straight line to St Petersburg, the route was decided by Tsar Nicholas who, angered by his ministers' interminable arguments over which station the line should pass through, called for a map and ruler and drew a line between the two cities, and in spite of all engineering difficulties, that was how the line was built, including even a large bend where the Tsar's thumb had got in the way.

Hitler's train

The plush "Red Arrow" leaves every night at midnight. For a time after the war it was built, including even a large bend where the Tsar's thumb had got in the way.

Next comes "The Ukraine" (Moscow-Kiev), fourth is "The Black Sea" (Kiev-Odessa), and fifth is "The Byelorussia" (Moscow-Minsk). From my experience, the priest has the order about right.

Soviet trains have never suffered the decline that overtook the grand express in the west. Most Russians still prefer to travel by train (including Mr Brezhnev), not simply because of Aeroflot's poor

reputation, but because in winter trains are the only reliable form of transport. In summer the holiday trains to the south are blocked solid weeks in advance, and queuing for a ticket can take days.

But through first-class travel is still in its old style, there has been a new twist. The south are blocked solid weeks in advance, and queuing for a ticket can take days.

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by train. The train to London, via Smolensk, Minsk, Warsaw, Berlin, Hanover and Ostend, leaves from the Byelorussian station and takes three days. All trains point west are lifted up at the Soviet border to have their wheels changed to fit the narrower standard European gauge. Only the night train to Finland usually carries a good sprinkling of Moscow's foreign community, does not change its wheels: as Finland was first Russian empire, Finland has the same time zone. The Chinese train to Peking, via Mongolia, leaves Moscow Tuesday afternoon and takes a week.

There is only one thing missing on Soviet railways for the real enthusiast: steam. Until only 10 years ago you could see great engines steaming in the cold in most stations. Last motive power is mainly electric now. But none also are the days of real adventure on the railways. When the trans-Siberian was first built, trains crossed Lake Baikal in winter over the ice during the war with the Japanese, and several fell in. It's a smoother and safer ride nowadays.

Michael Binyon

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Stock markets
FT Ind 469.1 up 8.7
FT Gilt 65.34 up 0.03
Sterling
\$2.2850 down 25 points
Index 73.1 down 0.1
Dollar
Index 86.1 unchanged
Gold
\$641.50 down 51
Money
3-mth sterling 17.18
3-mth Euro \$ 161.16
6-mth Euro \$ 151.16

Bank rates raised by West Germans and Swiss to protect currencies

From Peter Norman
Brussels, Feb 28

The West German and Swiss national banks today raised their key interest rates in an effort to catch up with market developments and to ensure that the Deutsche mark and Swiss franc remain "hard" currencies.

The German federal bank in Frankfurt announced an increase of one percentage point in its discount rate from 6 to 7 per cent, while the Lombard rate at which it lends to banks against collateral, was raised by 11 points to 8.5 per cent.

In Zurich the Swiss national bank raised bank rate to 3 per cent from 2 per cent and Lombard rate to 4 from 3 per cent. At the same time as raising their lending rates the monetary authorities in Germany took steps to ensure that the commercial banking system will be starved of liquidity.

Commercial banks' rediscount quotas are being raised by DM4,000 million (£1,002m) from next Monday while quantitative restrictions on their access to Lombard credit are being removed.

Herr Karl-Otto Pöhl, president of the German federal bank, told a press conference in Frankfurt that today's increases in interest rates had been dictated primarily by international considerations.

He said increases in money market and central bank interest rates throughout the world, and particularly in the United States and other European countries, had widened the gap between the return obtainable on marks and other currencies.

The result had been a considerable outflow of funds from Germany in recent weeks, enough to be in the region of DM5,000 million since the beginning of this year.

Herr Pöhl said that West Germany was so integrated into the world's economic system that it could not escape the effects of a worldwide escalation of interest rates. But today's decisions should also be taken as a signal to the German public as well as people abroad that the federal bank was committed to a policy of monetary stability and maintaining the mark as a hard currency.

He said the bank was convinced on the basis of past experience that such a policy mix was the best way of achieving economic growth.

This desire to maintain a strong currency was echoed by the Swiss national bank. In a brief explanation of today's interest rate increases the central bank said its decision was a response to the worldwide rise in interest rates and the recent weakness of the franc.

In Frankfurt, Herr Pöhl made clear that there were also economic reasons for today's action by the federal bank. In part, the increases were necessary because both bank and Lombard rate had fallen well behind a rise in short and long term capital market rates.

Over the past few days yields on the domestic bond market have risen to around 9 per cent, representing a substantial "real" return when compared with the 5 per cent average inflation rate forecast for this year.

Herr Pöhl said it had not been easy for the central bank to take its decisions today in view of the risks facing the German economy. However, he suggested that the increases, in so far as they represented a catching up of market rates, would not be passed on in full.

As might be expected, the decisions were given a mixed reception. In Bonn they were welcomed by the economics ministry, headed by Herr Otto Graf Lambsdorff, a Free Democrat, while the finance ministry, headed by Herr Hans Matthöfer, a Social Democrat, appeared more hesitant.

The commercial banking organisations generally welcomed the measures, although the sharp rise in Lombard rate will depress the banks' already narrow margins. The West German trade union federation (DGB) came out in opposition to the moves.

French rates rise: French term money market interest rates are reported to have risen by more than a half a point across the board over the last week, in response to international and domestic pressures. The major factor has been the raising of interest rates in the United States, Japan, Belgium, Switzerland and Germany.

Campaign brings better sales for BL

By Edward Townsend

BL's "Buy British" campaign appears to be succeeding, with sales this month climbing to over 17 per cent of the market and hopes of a 20 per cent share in March.

January sales figures to Wednesday now circulating privately within the industry, show that BL has pulled back some of the ground lost in January when the company sold a record low market share of 15 per cent. The month's rise is over 2 per cent, and BL is hoping that the impact of its advertising campaign will add another 3 per cent in March.

Despite predictions of a slump in car sales in the United Kingdom this year, registrations have continued to rise above last year's levels for the second month in succession. Sales in February were up over 57 per cent on sales with the 130,000, more than eight per cent higher than a year earlier.

Significantly, the share of February's market taken by Ford models imported from European plants is thought to have matched BL's total penetration. Ford's total share, however, is believed to have fallen from its high level of 37.53 per cent recorded in January.

The 27-day figure for imports indicates that the record penetration of 53.46 per cent in January is beginning to slide. Foreign cars took over 57 per cent of the market in January, 1979.

European manufacturers continuing to exert the greatest pressure. Renault's market share is believed to have risen to nearly 7 per cent.

The Japanese share, however, still is not regaining the 10 to 11 per cent mark regarded as the upper limit in the voluntary restriction on United Kingdom sales which Japanese manufacturers have agreed to end for a further year. A February share of about 8.7 per cent is slightly up on last month's figure and similar to the 8.74 per cent achieved in January, 1979.

Datsun, the leading Japanese importer, has been unable to satisfy demand because of restrictions on supplies. The February market share is little over 4 per cent.

The car-buying boom of last year led to total United Kingdom sales of 1.71 million, beating the previous peak achieved in 1973 by 3 per cent, and the February figures indicate that the trend is continuing, at least for the moment.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders has forecast that the 1980 market will be down to as low as 1.45 million, and some observers are suggesting a final sales total of 1.3 million. The present resilience of the market is thought by some to reflect uncertainties about inflation and the effect on new car prices later in the year, and present widespread discounting by dealers.

Vickers and Hawker Siddeley in £73m deals with foreign groups

By Our Financial Staff

Two leading British engineering companies disclosed deals worth £73m with overseas companies yesterday. Vickers is selling a substantial part of its Roneo-Vickers business to a French concern to raise £30m. Hawker Siddeley, cash rich partly because of the £60m it received in compensation for the nationalization of its aerospace assets 18 months ago, is prepared to pay £43.3m for an American small electric motors business, Fasco Industries.

Ironically, Vickers is one of the companies still locked in negotiations with the Government over compensation terms for its aerospace and shipbuilding interests.

Hawker, already heavily involved in electric motor manufacture in this country, is offering cash for Fasco whose profits last year were around £6.5m and which has book orders of nearly £17m. This is all subject to agreement by authorities on both sides of the Atlantic, but if successful would broaden Hawker's electric motors for use in a wide variety of consumer and commercial products. Fasco has three plants, one in Missouri and two in North Carolina, and employs about 3,150 people.

Vickers is selling the reprographics and mail room divisions of its Roneo-Vickers operations to CIT-Alcatel, a subsidiary of Compagnie Générale d'Electricité. The businesses to be acquired are presently a 50 per cent stake in British Aircraft Corporation—were nationalized, Vickers is still wrangling with the Government over compensation terms. The group has so far received only £23.5m by way of payment on account and offers from the Government have fallen a long way short of the £200m value placed on BAC by its former joint owners, Vickers and GEC.

News of the deal yesterday pushed Vickers shares up 19p to 144p. Financial Editor, page 19

After the deal Vickers will retain its office furniture businesses in the United Kingdom and France as well as Roneo-Vickers Business Forms and Roneo-Vickers Reproductions. A spokesman for the British group said last night that the deal had resulted from an approach by CIT-Alcatel, which is a world leader in digital switching technology and a major force in the new technology office business systems.

The spokesman admitted that cash pressures at Vickers had made it difficult for the group to give the divisions sufficient investment support to enable them to compete in a fast advancing technological market. Nearly three years after its shipbuilding and aerospace interests—mainly a 50 per cent stake in British Aircraft Corporation—were nationalized, Vickers is still wrangling with the Government over compensation terms. The group has so far received only £23.5m by way of payment on account and offers from the Government have fallen a long way short of the £200m value placed on BAC by its former joint owners, Vickers and GEC.

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News of the deal yesterday pushed Vickers shares up 19p to 144p. Financial Editor, page 19

Footwear imports 'put 6,000 jobs at risk'

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Up to 6,000 jobs in the already hard-hit footwear industry could be at risk unless there is action by the Government to restrict imports from Brazil, Poland and Czechoslovakia. This warning was given by a delegation from the industry, including both management and trade unions, to Mr David Young, Under Secretary of State at the Department of Industry.

Mr Mitchell promised to look in more detail at the problems of which the outstanding one is that involving quality leather-upper footwear from Brazil, Poland and Czechoslovakia. The British industry is asking for countervailing duties to wipe out unfair pricing.

It would be open to the Department of Trade to ask the European Commission for action against the Brazilian imports under article 19 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) governing distortions of trade.

Two thirds of the jobs at risk involve Brazilian imports which last year amounted to £2.2 million pairs, an increase over the previous year of nearly 130 per cent. After last year's Brazilian devaluation a 30 per cent export tariff was placed on finished leather while its own footwear producers were unaffected by the rise, effectively giving the Brazilian footwear makers a subsidy of at least 15 per cent, the British industry claims.

What is alarming the British industry is that Brazilian imports, predominantly of women's shoes, are under the quality men's footwear, look likely to double again this year unless there is EEC action.

On Polish and Czech footwear, on which there are already informally agreed restrictions, the British industry wants lower quotas formally imposed by the European Commission. Of total Polish shoe exports to the EEC British shoes are taking at least two thirds and the industry claims.

Polish exports to Britain amounted to 3.5 million pairs last year and there were 1.8 million pairs from Czechoslovakia. Both were under the informal restriction levels, but the shortfall was not in the sectors where the British industry is most sensitive like the quality leather-upper footwear.

Around 20 factories in the footwear industry are earning over £12 million a year. The industry is now on short-term, according to the British Footwear Manufacturers' Federation. About 1,000 redundancies have so far been reported throughout the industry for its component suppliers as well as footwear manufacturing.

The redundancy figure is expected to rise to around 1,200 by the end of next month. Although import penetration in the United Kingdom has now reached 19.2 million pairs, per cent, a flat home sales market in men's footwear has played its part in the industry's troubles. Moulding trade restrictions abroad have also hit the industry, but this was almost wholly offset by increased British exports, by about 20 per cent in volume, to the rest of the EEC market.

World production of fox skins, blue, silver and red, stands at just under 2 million in the fur trade, especially as the Finns, produce nearly 1.5 million.

When fox furs reached a boom price of £50 a skin a year ago, the BID producers were able to place 30,000 skins in the auctions, for which Britain accounted for only 10,000.

The British fox skins also tended to be between 10 and 15 per cent more expensive, although the Finns have largely been producing for quantity rather than quality. The problem for the British furriers is whether fox will retain its popularity long enough to justify investment in expanding production and whether over-supply might bring prices too low.

Mr Blake Mundell, whose Perthshire farm turns out around 20,000 mink and up to 4,000 fox skins annually, said: "We are concerned at what point the Finns may overdo it with production increases. Nevertheless it looks as if fox has now become a staple item in the fur trade, especially as modern methods have widened its use, compared with old, heavy fox coats and the fur thrown around the neck."

With fox skins selling at around £37, more British furriers are guarded moving towards increasing fox production. If the price declines to around £35 at fox fur auctions next month, United States buyers are expected to come in and boost demand. Farmers will then be weighing how far they can meet higher demand at lower prices and still leave an acceptable profit margin.

The fur may fly elsewhere. A fox "war" may be followed by a battle over chinchilla, a fur with a distinctive creamy stripe, which Britain has begun to farm as the Finns are building up production.

Derek Harris

EEC warning on steel trade war

Continued from page 1

A slide into protectionism and a trade war would gravely undermine the already tottering European steel industry. About half of the 5 million tonnes of steel shipments to America this year would be affected at a cost of £430m. Further cutbacks and redundancies would be inevitable.

Appealing for the American steel companies to hold back their action Viscount Davidson said that otherwise much of the progress made in the Tokyo round of multilateral trade negotiations would be placed in jeopardy, affecting 60 per cent of trade.

Later, the industry commissioner admitted that he was "very worried and very concerned" by such a prospect, and added that he had deliberately taken great care to underline the gravity of the consequences for world trade. It was important to avoid confrontation of this kind.

Moves to pursue anti-dumping action despite the consequences are being led by the US Steel Corporation, along with a number of other American steel companies. Senior officials from companies involved today reaffirmed their commitment to restoring the strength of the American steel industry by tearing back the share of their home market held by foreign producers.

Mr Lewis Fox, chairman of Bethlehem Steel and chairman of the American Iron and Steel Institute, said: "It must be understood that our steel industry is presently suffering from the cumulative injury resulting from years of dumped and subsidized steel imports. Our programme requires assurance that American producers will be able to recover from those injuries."

Mr Fox stressed that American steel companies were not prepared to "acquiesce passively to gradual liquidation". They would take whatever steps were necessary to defend their legitimate interests.

"We have urged our Government to limit the disruption of our domestic market by dumped and subsidized imports by aggressively enforcing our trade laws. My company and others state that they are prepared to take whatever steps are necessary to achieve this objective," he declared.

The issue has already seen a hectic round of high level diplomatic discussions over the last three weeks in an attempt to reach an agreement which would satisfy steel producers in both Europe and the United States. But feelings are running high, not only about the anti-dumping action now threatened but also over operation of America's "trigger" price mechanism, which a spokesman for the French steel industry claimed had heavily penalized Community export levels already.

Cheerless prospects, page 18

Public spending above cash limits

By Caroline Atkinson
Public spending is running outside the cash limits for the first time according to figures published yesterday by the Treasury. However, the excess is very small—0.2 per cent—and is expected to disappear at the end of the present financial year.

One major reason for the breach of the cash limits, and for the volume of spending in the last Budget in January, is that the limits have been used deliberately to squeeze the volume of spending by being set below the rate of inflation.

The Government is planning to use a further cash limit squeeze to cut about £1,000m off public spending in the coming financial year, 1980-81. This squeeze is on top of volume changes.

Officials hope that it will be effective in keeping cash limits will not be broken. They argue that this time spending authorities will be able to draw up their annual budgets in the knowledge that the cash limit implies a volume squeeze of roughly a certain size. They will thus rein in spending to meet the cash limit.

However, spending departments and local authorities knew that their cash limits were tight last year.

The Ministry of Defence is the main culprit in the overspending. Supplementary estimates presented to the House of Commons yesterday made provision for an extra £64m of spending by the Ministry. The Treasury has said that the excess spending is being investigated.

If the supplementary estimates turn out to be accurate and the extra spending does take place, Defence will have some money taken off next year's allocation. The Scottish Office is also thought to be overspending, by £6m.

The total spring supplementary estimates allow for a further £837m of public spending this year, bringing the estimated total of spending on supplementary services in 1979-80 to £54,622m.

The increase is within the public spending volume plans published last November and, except for Defence and Scottish services, is within the cash limits announced with the Budget last June.

These revised upwards Labour Government's cash limits which had been based on the then 5 per cent pay policy. An extra £316m is now being sought for additional pay awards including those recommended by the Clegg comparability commission.

The Chairman, Mr. C. Alan McIntosh, C.A., reports an exceptional year for earnings following the end of dividend restraint. He welcomes the removal of exchange controls which has increased flexibility, with the result that the company will probably gradually seek to increase its overseas commitments.

"Our view of revenue and capital prospects during 1980 must be fairly restrained but it is the Board's intention to try to keep revenue and dividends moving forward at an acceptable rate without jeopardizing the underlying quality of the portfolio."

Derek Harris



Mr Alfred Singer: Vital to support BL

BL vehicle finance makes £2m

By Edward Townsend

Wholesale Vehicle Finance, the subsidiary of the National Enterprise Board established a year ago with the help of City institutions to finance stock held by BL car and van distributors in the United Kingdom, made an operating profit of just over £2m for the year.

The company's first set of accounts published yesterday show that after interest on subordinated convertible unsecured loan stock of £425,000, preliminary expenses of £135,000 and advance corporation tax of £77,000, disposable profit was £1,317,000.

WVF, which marked a new link between the NEB and the City, began with £100m of capital. Its aim is to assume the stock financing commitments of BL, thereby releasing funds tied up on the showroom floors.

During the year, almost all of BL's 700 car and van distributors joined the WVF scheme, and Mr Alfred Singer, the chairman, said in his annual statement that preparation of £112m of new stock, releasing to distributors about £60m previously held as stock deposits.

Mr Singer, a former head of the Post Office City operation and the Post Office 1977 Superannuation Fund, remarked that 1979 was a difficult year for BL and WVF "has a vital part to play in support of funding the field sales which are essential to the maximization of sales". He believed that "commitment to the support of BL in this way is vital to the national interest".

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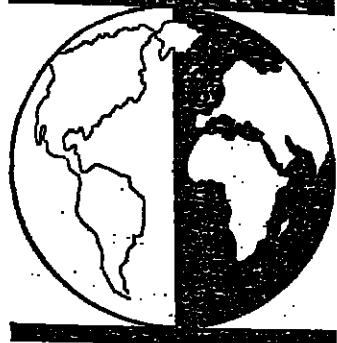
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EEC backs system of preferences

The European Commission would like to renew the system of generalized preferences, a Commission spokesman said in Brussels.

The system, launched in 1971 for an initial 10-year period, governs trading relations between the EEC and the Third World. It suspends duties on all manufactured products originating in developing countries, up to a certain ceiling, and partially suspends tariffs on more than 300 food products.

Commissioners agreed that it should be maintained "for at least 20 years, until the year 2000. This does not exclude a periodic re-examination", a spokesman said.

He added that the Commissioners favoured simplifying current rules.

Japan may lift curbs

Japan is reported by the newspaper *Nihon Keizai* to be considering abolishing the present interest ceilings on foreign deposits by non-residents as part of its attempt to promote an inflow of capital from overseas. Abolition of the controls could be the main feature in a new package of yen-defence measures.

Application to IEA

Portugal is applying to join the Paris-based International Energy Agency, so that it can be eligible to participate in the West's emergency oil-sharing system under IEA auspices, Lisbon official sources say.

Unions told: 'no rises'

Virtually no scope exists for wage rises in 1980, the Swedish Employers' Confederation in Stockholm said in a letter to private sector white and blue collar unions. Industry faces cost increases this year of 6 to 7 per cent following higher taxes, compensatory payments for 1979 price increases and wage drift.

Angolan crude output

Angolan 1980 oil production will be 160,000 barrels daily and will rise to 200,000 barrels within three years, Senhor Jorge Morais, the oil minister says.

Back to market realities after cheerless words at Paris symposium

Steel experts face a bleak future

Delegates to the first international steel symposium organized by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development left Paris last night for the awful realities of the market place.

After spending two days gazing into the future and attempting to digest close on a kilo's worth of gloomy forecasts and calls to action in the relative calm of the OECD building, most will return with a wider appreciation of the industry's problems.

But as Congressman Charles Vanik observed during a speech yesterday: "There is only one certainty in the new decade—and that is uncertainty."

That sentiment emerged strongly in virtually all of the detailed papers presented to the conference in forecasts of the expected levels of steel capacity and demand over the next five to 10 years. It was also reflected in today's discussions which concentrated on policy responses to the steel industry's problems, particularly the enormous social implications of early the enormous social implications of the curbs already implemented and planned.

The outlook for the world's steel industry is far from bright and the process of readjustment to realities will take time. But time is not on the industry's side.

Union leaders, government officials and steel company executives are familiar

enough with the problem. Additional steel capacity is being brought on stream in the developing countries at a time when the world's surplus capacity is estimated at about 100 million tonnes. The traditional steelmaking countries are being forced to cut out uneconomic facilities and wish that action thousands of steel workers are being made jobless. Britain's steel industry problems are by no means unique.

So what of the future? The consensus view to emerge during the two days of debate produced little in the way of solace. In five years' time apparent world steel consumption will, according to Nippon Steel, be around the 850 to 900 million tonnes level and over the period consumption will grow at a mere 3 per cent (even that is considered perhaps a trifle optimistic).

But the significant feature of that prediction is that the growth of consumption is half of what the industry experienced between 1960-73.

While the capacity of the industrialized countries will remain at around its present level of some 560 million tonnes the developing countries are expected to reach the middle of the decade with around 120 million tonnes capacity. So, where will the balance of advantage lie in the future given that the traditional steelmakers will

have phased out surplus and outmoded capacity, and how can the industry recover from the crisis?

Dr Robert Crandall, senior fellow at the United States Brookings Institution, attempted to peer further into the future and suggested that new integrated steel mills producing flat rolled products built and operated in Japan and other parts of Asia would continue to enjoy a 15 to 20 per cent advantage over new plants in the United States or Europe.

The pressures on Europe and the United States will intensify and rescue efforts will become increasingly costly. Latin American and Asian steel producers, while still net importers, might well become self-sufficient in steel in the next 15 years and porters to the traditional steel making countries according to Dr Crandall.

Many of the current rescue schemes, observed Mr Edward Florio, an OECD consultant, which have mushroomed under the guise of "crisis plans" or "emergency" smacks of lack of vision or initiative. Future policies should be aimed at alleviating, if not avoiding the build-up of crisis conditions.

But progress is slow and will continue to be painfully slow and words and symposia of the Paris type are not enough.

Peter Hill

Civil engineers claim £200m debt backlog on roadbuilding contracts

By John Huxley

Civil engineers are to press government officials to tackle with urgency the backlog of claims for payments outside of agreed contract prices arising from roadbuilding schemes. The sums involved are believed to total almost £200m.

Industry sources say that in some cases the claims relate to road programmes in the early 1970s.

The Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors said yesterday that contractors were becoming increasingly concerned at the delay in disposing of claims.

"Anything which adds to the cash flow problem being experienced by contractors is bad news", said Mr Jack Bowen, general secretary of the federation. Civil engineering companies had been forced to cope with successive cuts in public sector building programmes, on which they depended for about 90 per cent of their workload.

The industry expects this year's output to fall to almost

50 per cent of that enjoyed in the early 1970s.

Mr Bowen said that the question of outstanding claims would be raised at the next meeting of the roads liaison committee on March 6. This comprises representatives of the industry and officials from the Department of Transport, led by Mr Ron Bridle, the chief highways engineer.

Mr Norman Fowler, the Minister for Transport, has already been told of the industry's concern over lengthening delays and has promised to look sympathetically at the problem.

The claims arise from "extra to contract" amounts sought by companies to cover increases in fuel and material costs, rising interest charges and other such items.

A Department of Transport spokesman said yesterday that delays did arise. All claims needed to be carefully checked by independent engineers and government officials because they involved taxpayers' money. He was unable to confirm or deny suggestions that the department had unofficially acknowledged that the sum in-

volved could be about £200m, nor would he give details of the length of delays involved.

It is understood that several large civil engineering companies are awaiting the settlement of claims. Among them is Marchwell, whose vice-chairman, Mr Robert McAlpine, last week called on the Government to pay more than £10m in debt.

Mr McAlpine said that the claims mostly related to roadbuilding contracts. Based on present interest rates he calculated that the Government's delay in disposing of the claims could be costing Marchwell up to £2m a year.

He disagreed with suggestions that many of the claims had little substance.

The Department of Transport insists, however, that the Government is a prompt payer. Civil engineers are also calling for a meeting with the Cement Makers' Federation to discuss the recent 24 per cent increase in cement prices. They are concerned at the lack of notice given and the fact that it was not being spread over a longer period.

Falmouth's docks back in profit

After 20 years of almost constant losses, Falmouth docks are making a profit of £1.4m, according to British Shipbuilders. However, the state-owned group has confirmed that it is prepared to sell the 80-acre site if it receives a good offer.

The Falmouth facilities, which include four dry docks, 13 miles of wharfage and a 60-ton crane, were acquired by British Shipbuilders in 1977 for £1.6m. Since then losses have totalled £4m and the scale of activities has been reduced drastically, with the number of jobs falling from 1,300 to a low of 175 last autumn.

Employment has since climbed to 330, including about 40 stevedores employed temporarily to load and unload fish.

Mr Maurice Elderfield, British Shipbuilders' board member for finance, said the opportunity for increased profits existed, although worthwhile bids would still be considered. He did not think potential buyers would be deterred by the absence of vacant possession.

In recent months there has been an increase in the throughput of ships for repair at Falmouth and British Shipbuilders believes that because of its position overlooking the Western Approaches, it will be well placed to benefit from any upturn in such activity.

Size of steel industry

From Mr Roland A. Cookson

Sir, For the moment, our thoughts regarding the steel industry are inevitably concentrated on this most unhappy strike. Once it has been settled, however, the issue of the future size and structure of the industry, and the question of plant closures, will have to be faced.

I believe that this is something from which the Government must not stand aside: it is a basic strategic question affecting the whole of British manufacturing industry and, of course, major, and serious, social consequences also arise.

One of the most urgent matters will be the future of Consett steelworks, and as a former chairman of Consett Iron Company immediately before nationalization in 1967, I feel that this question has not by any means been properly answered.

Consett has been through rough times in its long history, but up to now it has always survived, and has continued to play a valuable part in supplying steel users in the North East and other parts of the country.

For many years it has been an efficient modern plant, and we are told that even in today's very difficult conditions, it was making a small profit.

In the thirties, when things were worse than at any time in the history of the industry, shareholders had to accept a

writing-off by two-thirds of their capital, there was short-time working and cuts in salaries. But the company came through it again became profitable and in due course resumed dividends. That was under private enterprise.

The BSC's plans for meeting the present worldwide depression in steel appear to be by contracting the industry's capacity to well below the size we will again require in times of good trade. If this happens, the prospects for our industrial revival will be dim indeed.

The case for keeping Consett going should be looked at again—whether within the BSC or under private enterprise—bearing in mind that its steelmaking capacity is sure to be required when trade picks up, that there is always a place for the smaller, medium-sized producer in any industry, and that it is a fallacy to suppose that all requirements can be met from one or two giant plants; and finally that at Consett there is a workforce with the tradition and skills of steelmaking extending over more than 100 years, a priceless asset which, once lost, is gone forever.

Yours faithfully, ROLAND A. COOKSON, Howden Dene, Corbridge, Northumberland, February 27.

Patriot's survival struggle

From Mr Robert Wallum

Sir, The current revival in patriotism, led so expertly by Sir Michael Edwards, coupled with the increasing awareness that we must all put our shoulders more firmly to the wheel, has stirred me to put pen to paper. I should like to relay some personal experience in starting a new British enterprise, not as one usually reads, from a captain of industry, but from one very much engaged in the embryonic struggle for survival.

My background is in civil engineering and following seven years' practice in this country and overseas I decided to return to the United Kingdom, by far the best country I have experienced, to start my own business.

My first attempt was an export service. It was devised to help small to medium-size companies into the Middle East markets using contacts made through civil engineering projects. Some eight months later a few and following seven years' practice in this country and overseas I decided to return to the United Kingdom, by far the best country I have experienced, to start my own business.

My second and current try is a furniture business. From my own designs it has taken six months and a few thousand to organize basic production of a commercial product. I have by no means made it. My house is double mortgaged and the whole business is in danger of collapse for lack of ready cash, but now I feel I am learning my second major lesson.

Fourteen months after leaving a highly paid job I am in imminent danger of losing my house and every other material possession. In spite of this an increasing awareness has been building within me for weeks. I know that I am going to build a major British furniture company capable of taking on the best in the world. So the second lesson is (summarized to follow) 100 per cent confidence in what you are doing is essential.

Those contemplating launching their own businesses will be snowed under with advice and warnings from many directions. I offer a much simplified, not fully proven, method of making the decision. Ask yourself one question. Is it humanly possible?

R. WALLUM, 98 Bearlands, Wotton under Edge, Gloucestershire, February 24.

Employment and wages

From Professor A. P. Thirlwall

Sir, Do we really have to return to the pre-Keynesian view that the level of real wages determines the aggregate level of employment in the economy as a whole, as Professor Maynard seems to be suggesting in his letter of February 27, arguing that the current high level of unemployment cannot be described as involuntary?

The fundamental Keynesian message was that it is the level of aggregate demand that determines employment, which in turn determines the real wage. I see no reason for rejecting this basic insight. Keynes exposed the classical argument for what it is—a fallacy of composition. Wages are both a cost and a component of demand. A cut in wages in one firm may induce more employment there, but if wages were cut across the board, what would happen to the demand for labour in the aggregate? What does Professor Maynard think would happen?

It is certainly true that Keynes unfortunately accepted the classical orthodoxy of diminishing returns to labour so that he accepted that real wages would have to fall as employment increased, but the direction of causation is from employment to the real wage, not vice versa.

But even if we were to accept the classical direction of causation, what does it mean to say that the real wage is too high if there are no diminishing returns to labour? If there are increasing returns to labour an expansion of output and employment is consistent with a rise in real wages, and a reduction in real wages cannot be necessary to reduce unemployment. There is abundant empirical evidence that both in the long run and the short run labour productivity rises with the level of economic activity, decreasing marginal (labour) costs of production.

On Keynes's definition of involuntary unemployment there must be close to a million unemployed who would be willing to work at the going money wage given the opportunity. I think it is mischievous to say the least, to suggest that the majority of the 1.5 million unemployed in Britain today are voluntarily unemployed, and disingenuous to invoke the name of Keynes in support of such a proposition.

A. P. THIRLWALL, Professor of Applied Economics, Keynes College, The University, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NP.

The National Bank of Kuwait S.A.K.

Balance Sheet at 31st December 1979

1978 Kuwaiti Dinars		1979 Kuwaiti Dinars		1978 Kuwaiti Dinars		1979 Kuwaiti Dinars	
ASSETS		LIABILITIES		Profit and Loss Account for the year ended 31st December 1979		Kuwaiti Dinars	
82,172,660	Cash and Balances with Banks	107,400,144		728,177,221	Demand, Time Deposits & Other Accounts including	907,757,228	
125,294,290	Money at Call and Short Notice with Banks	147,201,048		3,893,175	Contingencies	4,282,492	
16,615,000	Bankers Negotiable Certificates of Deposit	13,192,591			Proposed Dividend		
70,098,056	Quoted Investments	58,429,652		732,070,396	Total Liabilities	912,039,720	
138,428,415	Deposits with Banks	167,151,824					
323,905,334	Loans and Discounts	449,427,587					
					SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY		
					Capital: Authorised and Issued 19,465,875 shares of KD 1 000 each fully paid	19,465,875	
22,564,781	Unquoted Investments (of which IBRD Bonds KD 13,767,485 - 1978 KD 16,720,760)	19,572,136			Reserves: Statutory (including Share Premium Account KD 19,057,500 1978 - KD 19,057,500)	24,642,800	
					General	24,864,700	
1	Land, Premises and Equipment	1			Undistributed Profits	766,773	
15,744,000	Other Assets	19,404,891					
794,822,537	TOTAL ASSETS	981,778,874			TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	981,778,874	
241,932,847	Liability of Customers for Letters of Credit, Acceptances and Guarantees	328,927,066			Letters of Credit, Acceptances and Guarantees on behalf of Customers	328,927,068	
KD 1,036,755,384		KD 1,311,706,940				KD 1,311,706,940	

KD 1 = US \$ 3.662 = £ 1.639 = DM 6.317 = SF 5.835

YACOB YOUSUF AL HAMAD
Chairman

MOHAMED ABDUL MOHSIN AL KHARAFI
Deputy Chairman

GEORGEY PINK
Acting Chief General Manager



The National Bank of Kuwait S.A.K.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

ICI and Budget hopes help to lift depression

The highlights of activity in the stock market yesterday were provided by ICI's results, which gave a slight lift to other leading industrial stocks. Meanwhile there was a general mood of pessimism as the Budget was expected to be a disappointment after the Budget which helped the property sector, and made for a firmer market.

Other features included the new Berkeley Exploration's rising success at the start of dealings. It finished the day at 130p after extremes of 110p and 131p. Berkeley was lifted off from KCA International and the shares were offered at 50p. KCA itself added 1p to 70p as a result. The second-line oil stocks continued on the upward trail once again with renewed interest in Siebens which added 50p to 894p, after a sharp fall to 840p. Hambro, which is bidding for Fairway and also has a stake in Siebens, gained 10p to 354p, while Tarmac continuing its improvement of the last few days went up 6p to 240p, and Cawoods improved 5p to 182p because of their North Sea interests.

But the gilt-edged market was a good deal quieter. Dealing in the new 14 per cent Treasury 1996 stock opened and closed at 11/16 on the issue price, following a modest number of applications. Increases in the Swiss and German bank rates which went from 2 per cent to 3 per cent, and 6 to 7 per cent respectively were discounted by traders. Although there was a spurt of domestic buying for shorts at the start of the day, they experienced more worries over world interest rates, and from 1/4 meter at the opening, they

closed 1/4 off at the end.

The FT index's move upwards during the day to 461.57 up was followed by a final spurt which put it 8.7 up at the close at 469.1.

ICI's favourable results which went from £42m profits to £47m, and the Budget, were the main factors in the market's recovery.

Further details of any bid approaches came from the group Montague L. Meyer yesterday and the shares closed 1p down at 114p to give a capitalization of £55.4m. Rumoured suitors now range from Macmillan Bloedel through Harris and Crosfield to Brooke Bond Liebig. The pattern shows determined buying whenever the price dips below 110p. But, in the absence of a bidder, a rights issue at anything above 120p looks possible.

£560m for the full year and showed a 19 per cent dividend increase, put 10p on the share price to 400p, having reverted to 392p after a 33p drop while waiting for the figures.

Other leading industrials which showed gains were Glaxo which added 6p to 256p and Pilkington which rose 4p to 230p. Fisons put on 7p to 294p which is common with Unilever, which went from 448p to 450p, is reporting results soon. BOC International was unchanged after yesterday's results.

Engineering shares responded with a more hopeful view of the developments in the steel strike. Hawker Siddeley added 14p to 190p through investment buying and ahead of the late announcement of a big US acquisition.

Vickers gained 19p to 144p after the sale of French interests and Amalgamated Metal went up 10p to 290p in response to a satisfactory trading statement. Guest, Keen and Nettlefold added 7p to 264p, while Dorey Group, despite a bearish brokers circular added 2p to 183p. Among electrical stocks, Racal put on 8p to 225p, while Decca "A" shares added 13p to 532p, and the ordinary gained 17p to 637p.

Electrocomponents also performed well, rising 12p to 530p. In oils, Lasso moved up 7p to 500p on the back of ICI's results, which included the Nigerian field but profit takers moved in on Viking Oil, bringing the share back to 263p to 937. Ultramar added 12p to 520p, while BP and Shell which are both due to produce results soon, lost a couple of pence to 296p and 390p respectively.

Burnham, after days of takeover speculation, fell back 3p to 237p. Celtic Base and Exploration made one of the sharpest rises of the day with a jump from 70p to 90p.

The distillers sector was helped by the EEC Court ruling in favour of whisky exports. Distillers added 3p to 204p, Arthur Bell added 3p to 130p and Highland rose 3p to 130p. But Irish Distillers dropped 3p to 76p after the Irish Budget and Swan Ryan also suffered, falling back to 19p, down 21p. The other companies which reported yesterday, Campari

International fell back 9p to 80p after producing lower profits, while disappointing results from Footwear Industry brought the price down 2p to 45p.

On the stores front, GUS "A" with its relatively strong figures from Sheffield, gave a disappointing full-year performance. Woodhouse & Risson (Holdings) today, it lost around £500,000 from the engineering strike so there will be a drop from last year's £450,000. The shares at 17p are probably discounting this but so far this year trading has been good, though the engineering recession will mean problems in the second half.

ful mail order side added 6p to 394p and Mothercare put on 8p to 236p. But Woolworth made the most significant gain of the day with a 3p improvement to 72p after suggestions of a takeover. The company's management, although fourth-quarter results are expected to show some improvement.

The old bid favourite, Howard Tensens, re-emerged and showed a 3p gain to 73p while Martine the Newsagent was also fuelled by speculation and went up 4p to 194p.

Blue Circle Industries' announcement that it had received effectively 61.1 per cent of acceptances for its £33m bid for Armitage Shanks which has now gone unconditional. Equity turnover for February was £26.53m (number of shares 16,088).

The most active stocks according to the Exchange Telegraph were BP, Howard Tensens, Shell, Ultramar, ICI, UDT and Lasso.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Int or Fin	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
AC Cars (F)	3,653(3.38)	0.11(0.13)	6.44(5.61)	nd(-)	24/4	0.14(0.65)
Aust & Int Tr (I)	12.5(9.9)	0.18(0.16)	1.0(1.7)	1.0(1.7)	24/4	1.0(1.7)
Cardinal Invest (F)	1.06(0.85)	0.08(0.06)	4.65(3.57)	2.53(-)	28/3	4.38(3.37)
Footwear Ind (I)	6,296(6.5)	1.08(0.46)	1.05(5.1)	1.54(1.54)	12/5	1.54(1.54)
Howells (F)	5,865(0.533.0)	1.58(1.1)	74.7(53.6)	1.0(0.5)	3/4	23.0(18.5)
Howells (I)	25(1.43)	0.05(0.04)	nd(0.7)	nd(0.7)	3/4	nd(0.7)
Freestrich Parker (I)	14.8(13.6)	0.06(0.01)	8.5(6.7)	0.5(0.1)	2/4	0.5(0.1)
Tate (F)	1.58(1.1)	0.06(0.05)	1.2(1.0)	1.2(1.0)	2/4	2.0(1.5)
Scottish Land (C)	2.0(1.4)	2.0(1.4)	1.9(1.9)	1.5(1.6)	12/5	2.0(1.9)
T. Walker (I)	0.87(0.9)	0.05(0.09)	0.88(0.77)	0.17(0.17)	3/5	0.093
Witan Invest (b)	13.8(16.57)	6.08(3.22)	4.39(7.27)	0.7(-)	2/4	1.4(1.83)

Dividends in this table shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a—loss, b—9 months, c—3 months, d—franked and unfranked income, e—comparisons for 18 months.

Briefly

CARDINAL INVESTMENT TRUST
Final dividend 2.55p, plus special dividend of 0.33p, plus 0.33p making 4.33p (3.37p) per share for 1979. Pre-tax revenue, £1,05m (1,087,000). Dividend, £1,05m (1,087,000). Dividend, £1,05m (1,087,000). Dividend, £1,05m (1,087,000).

MEGGITT HOLDINGS
Chairman says in his annual statement that group has entered 1980 against the background of the steel strike, high interest rates and a high rate of inflation. Internationally, the scene is equally depressing so therefore he expects the outcome for the current year. But organization is in good health and every effort will be made to improve performance.

WITAN INVESTMENT CO
Gross income nine months to January 30, £6.05m (£5.32m). Post-tax earnings, £1.81m (£1.8m). Net taking current loans and prior charges at par 129.8p (131.1p).

SCOTTISH INV TRUST CO
Gross investment income for three months to January 31, £1.13m (£87,000) and unfranked £884,000 (£567,000). Net per share 138.5p (128.5p at October 31). Figures should not be used as basis for estimating level of income for full year, board says.

FINANCE FOR INDUSTRY
Group has used the proceeds of the trust deed constituting the 12 1/2 per cent sterling—U.S. dollar payable bonds 1989 of the company, £1.12m nominal of bonds, £1.12m nominal of bonds. These will help to meet the sinking fund obligation to redeem £1.12m of the bonds by January 31, 1991. Mr. J. V. Thompson has been made managing director of International Harvester Company of Great Britain.

LONDON SHOP PROPERTY TRUST
Interim dividend 0.95p (0.901p), payable on April 30.

CLIVE DISCOUNT
Dividend for half-year to March 31, 6.50p gross on 91 per cent cumulative preference shares. Board says that this payment should not be taken as indicative of dividend policy on ordinary share capital. The company's resources have been depleted by large trading losses to date in the current financial year.

PRESTWICH PARKER
Pre-tax profit for half year to December 31, 1979, £82,000 (£14,000). Interim 0.5p (nil).

RATCLIFFE (GREAT BRIDGE)
Dividend is 3.20p (3.15p). Pre-tax profit, £1.58m (£1.79m). EPS 18.95p (19.79p). Profit includes £12,500 exceptional gains which have been transferred to a special contingency reserve and are not regarded as available for distribution.

BRITISH ASSETS TRUST
Fourth quarterly interim dividend, 0.80p a share. Indicated dividend rate for year to September 30 amounts to 3.20p a share. An additional 0.30p has been paid as a special interim dividend in January 1980.

AUSTRALIAN & INT TRUST
Interim dividend is £109 net (for year to July 30, 1980) (100 net). Revenue before taxation £179,000 (£158,000). Net Asset Value per share, 130.6p (132.1p).

THOMAS WALKER
Interim is held at 0.1675p. Turnover for half year to December 31, £369,000 (£361,000). EPS 0.985p (0.779p).

BIRMINGHAM QUALCAST
Board is "planning to achieve considerable improvement in performance" according to chairman Mr. James Innes in his annual report. But he says general climate remains "uncertain" and "renders it almost impossible to make accurate profit forecasts".

RICHARD CLAY
Reliance Assurance, with R. A. Securities, has 6.32 per cent.

MONKS INVESTMENT TRUST
Pre-tax profit, £50,000 (£48,000) and 5.48m shares.

ENGLISH CUNA CLAYS
S. E. Bolitho, director has sold 4,327 ord.

ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND INVEST
Merchants Trust has sold £31,000 5 per cent cum pref stock.

Business appointments

New director for Williams & Glyn's

Mr Charles Shakerley becomes a director of Williams & Glyn's Bank from March 1.

Mr Tom Forsyth has been made producer of the new television series "The Electric Blue" for the BBC. Mr Peter Johnston is now financial director of M&A's manufacturing operations in South-East Asia, has joined the board of MEM on being made technical director of MEM's operations in S. E. Asia. Mr Roger Byrnes has resigned from the board of MEM in the United Kingdom.

Mr Ronald Leach is to retire as a non-executive director of Samuel Montagu. Sir Ronald is now a non-executive director of Jersey International Bank of Commerce.

Mr John Wortton-Griffiths has joined the board as technical director of the new company, Mr Bernard Crowley is the new president of Merck Sharp & Dohme (Europe). He becomes a senior vice-president of Merck Sharp & Dohme International and will be responsible for MSDI operations in Europe and Africa. He was previously chairman of Merck Sharp & Dohme in the United Kingdom and vice-president, Northern Europe, of MSDI.

Mr J. V. Thompson has been made managing director of International Harvester Company of Great Britain.

Mr Keith Lewis has joined the board of Universal McCann. Mr Peter Fagan is now managing director of Biddle Sawyer & Company. Mr Martin Gould has been made director of development for the merchandising division.

Mr L. E. Linaker and Mr D. A. E. R. Veske have become additional directors of M & G Group (Holdings). Mr J. H. Whitlock (Non-Married) Mr T. L. W. Evans (Aviation). Mr T. McEwan has been made finance director.

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Tate & Lyle chief asks EEC for fair sugar deal

By Our Financial Staff

Lord Jellicoe, chairman of Tate & Lyle, appealed yesterday to the EEC agricultural ministers to come to a decision over the 1980/81 Sugar Regime.

He told shareholders at the company's AGM that he hoped to give them some definite news about the outcome of talks in Brussels. But, not for the first time, there had been a delay and some considerable disarray in Brussels. Even though he was still hoping for some sort of decision by March 5, it was conceivable that the decision could be delayed as long as next year.

He explained to shareholders that the sugar market was in a state of confusion and the resulting sugar mountain had cost European taxpayers over £350m a year. He said the company was not looking for undue protection but was looking for a fair balance between the United Kingdom market and the rest of the world.

The company had already cut back its refining capacity by a third which had resulted in the closure of three refineries and the loss of 2,000 jobs at a cost of £50m.

Mr Charles Shakerley.

Mr J. V. Thompson.

Additional directors on the board of Williams & Glyn's are: Mr R. N. L. Helman, Mr D. N. Langley, Mr R. H. Pickett, Mr I. Ryder-Smith (Marine), Mr D. E. H. J. Whitlock (Non-Married), Mr T. L. W. Evans (Aviation), Mr T. McEwan has been made finance director.

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Large losses at Clive Discount

With this winter's rise in interest rates making life difficult for the discount houses, Clive Discount yesterday warned that it had suffered large trading losses in its current financial year.

The company added that the rebuilding of resources would be a primary concern when it came to considering a final dividend on the ordinary shares. Last autumn the group paid a dividend on the ordinary shares that left the "gross" payment unchanged at 3.03p.

Yesterday it declared an interim dividend of 4.625p on its 94 per cent cumulative preference shares. But, warned that this should not be taken as indicative of dividend policy on the ordinary share capital.

Trading conditions have been very difficult for discount houses over recent months. The rise in interest rates left them carrying capital losses on their portfolios of government securities with running losses on assets like Treasury Bills where returns have recently been some way below financing costs.

Tate electronics make good start

Tate, manufacturers of electronic, electrical and mechanical control equipment had a turnover for the year ended September 30, 1979, of £14.8m compared with £13.6m a year earlier. Pre-tax profit rose from £58,000 to £58,000. Earnings per share were 8.56p against 6.72p. A final dividend of 1.71p gross will be paid on April 22 against 1.428p gross making a total of 2.8p gross compared with 2.1p gross.

The board states that in the present industrial climate it is

Options

Interest among traded options picked up again yesterday with total contracts rising from the previous day's level of 127 to 764. Racal came in for some active trading with 144 contracts 70 of which were made in the May 22p series. ICI, reporting yesterday, also featured strongly with investors taking a particular fancy to the April 420p series as the share price rose 10p to 400p.

Land Securities was on the boil again with its April 330p series receiving attention while buyers were also looking to Marks & Spencer where the April 100p series stood out.

Dealers reported quieter conditions among traditional options, with the April 100p series, Arrow and UDT came in for attention.

Mr Charles Shakerley.

Mr J. V. Thompson.

Additional directors on the board of Williams & Glyn's are: Mr R. N. L. Helman, Mr D. N. Langley, Mr R. H. Pickett, Mr I. Ryder-Smith (Marine), Mr D. E. H. J. Whitlock (Non-Married), Mr T. L. W. Evans (Aviation), Mr T. McEwan has been made finance director.

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Stanhope shares gap after bid approach

Shares of Stanhope General Investment leapt 30 per cent to 135p after a bid approach, which might lead to an offer for the group had been received. The directors strongly advise shareholders not to sell their shares until they heard further from the chairman. The board's statement is now about £2.2m for this investment holding group. Its subsidiaries are in property holdings.

Loss for year at AC Cars

AC Cars reports that turnover for the year to September 30 rose from £3.38m to £3.65m but there was a loss after all charges, including tax, of £127,265. The tax charge is £107,000 compared with £78,000. The loss is compared with last year's of £51p. No final dividend is declared but an interim has already been paid of 0.14p. The total last year was 0.6p.

Leatherhead deal by Federated Land

Federated Land & Building reports that an agreement has been signed with Grindlays Bank under which Grindlays will provide a £5m medium-term facility towards the building of the company's new

shopping centre in Leatherhead. Joint signatories to the funding agreement, with Federated and Grindlays, were the Mole Valley District Council, who are the promoters of the scheme.

The total approximate cost of the development will be £8m, and the main building contract is expected to be signed next month. It is anticipated that the shops at the Leatherhead centre will be open for trading before the end of 1981.

New broadside in Hoffmann bid

The next round in what is expected to be a fiery battle should be fired today when the offer document from Australian Investment Bank, which is bidding £15.5m for United Kingdom group S. Hoffmann, is due to appear. Hoffmann, which gets 90 per cent of its profits from down-under has already rejected the 80p a share cash offer as wholly inadequate. The Hoffmann price remains above the Philip's offer, closing last night at 87p as the market reckons the bid price could be increased or a counter bidder could appear.

Footwear group improving

Pre-tax profits of Footwear Industries fell to £460,000 from £480,000 over the half-year to November 30 on turnover of £6.29m against £6.58m. The chairman, Mr M. Sumay points out, however, that the group's profits also compare with a loss of £1,600 for the previous half-year.

ITT drops suit for \$2bn deal

International Telephone and Telegraph has agreed to drop its suit against the American Telephone and Telegraph Company (AT&T) in exchange for a guaranteed payment in kind of two billion dollars.

The action between the two companies began in 1977 when ITT filed a complaint with the American Federal Communications Commission, on the grounds of anti-trust, concerning the alleged activities of AT&T's operating company, Bell Systems, ITT, as a major supplier to the independent telephone

industry in the United States and supplier of a wide range of telecommunications equipment around the globe, was concerned about Bell System's alleged refusal to purchase certain transmission equipment.

The agreement includes a commitment by AT&T to purchase up to £2 billion dollars worth of telecommunications products and services offered by ITT.

Another part of the deal signed by both companies yesterday ITT will make a deposit with ITT of 100 million dollars by

own directly a portfolio of overseas interests mainly in the United States.

The new company, Ferguson Investments, was incorporated in England as Watling Thirty Five Ltd, with 5,000 £1 shares of which Mr Lacey and Mr McBride own 2,500 shares each.

Few details of how it is to finance the £55m needed for the whole of the company's operations are in the offer document, but Arbutnot Latham —14 per cent owned by BMCT—says it is satisfied that Ferguson Investments has sufficient funds. Banking facilities are being made available to Ferguson Investments to enable it to implement its offer.

The new company says that the offer will not be increased under any circumstances and will not be extended beyond the March 20 closing date.

The document also says that Mr Lacey will continue to support the present policies of the Watling management, who intend to close their factory at Caernarvon with the loss of 320 jobs. This appears to be in conflict with a statement issued by Mr Dafydd Wip

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

International

Lockheed sees delay in profitability for TriStar

A spokesman for Lockheed Corporation of California says that Mr Roy A. Anderson, Lockheed chairman, told a group of aerospace industry analysts that the company expects a year's delay in the financial recovery on its TriStar commercial aircraft programme.

Earlier another spokesman said that Lockheed did not know of any reason for the drop in the price of its stock on the New York Stock Exchange. Mr Anderson is understood to have told the analysts that it "looks more like 1982 instead of 1981" for the TriStar programme to show a current year profit rather than be a drain on earnings as at present.

Mr Anderson added that there will also be some near-term impacts on earnings of higher interest rates because Lockheed's high level of business will cause a higher level of borrowing.

He also said that Lockheed is making "real progress" on the material and labour shortages relating to its TriStar programme but has yet to get the situation where it belongs.

He thought that Lockheed would start to make some significant inroads on the shortage problem about April or May.

IBM spending

International Business Machines Corporation of Pittsburgh says that its capital expenditures continue at high levels in the months ahead, senior vice-president Mr Paul J. Rizzo told financial analysts.

He said IBM's 1979 capital investments of \$6bn (about £2.6bn) represented a 48 per cent increase over 1978 and 76 per cent over 1977. He did not project what the figure would be for 1980.

Mr Rizzo said the biggest single use of capital funds in 1979 was for the financing of rental equipment. This expenditure grew from \$2.7bn in 1978 to \$4.2bn in 1979.

Mitsubishi Corp

Mitsubishi Corporation of Japan says that it will increase its capital by 10 per cent to 5,530 yen through a one-for-10 bonus share issue to shareholders at the end of March.

Mitsubishi said its profit before tax and special items for the current year ending next month will probably total 40bn yen on sales of 11.72 trillion yen, compared with 38.18bn and 8.84 trillion last year.

Feroxo name change

Car components manufacturer Safran of France said it is seeking shareholders' approval to change its name to Valeo.

Fiat-Peugeot deal

Vice-president of Fiat SpA, Buenos Aires, Signor Umberto Agnelli is expected to announce the merger of its local subsidiary Fiat Concord SA with Safran Peugeot SA, the Argentine subsidiary of PSA Peugeot-Citroen SA.

A Fiat Concord spokesman declined to comment on the reports other than to confirm the presence of Signor Agnelli in Buenos Aires.

Fiat manufactures a wide range of cars, pick-up trucks and lorries in Argentina while Peugeot produces the 404 and 504 saloon cars.

Last year the local Citroen subsidiary announced it was running down local car production and concentrating on marketing imported vehicles.

Wall Street

New York, Feb 28.—Stocks were mixed in active trading after a weak opening this morning. Popular averages moved higher but declined after advances seven-to-five.

International Business Machines recovered one to 63½ after dropping 22 yesterday. Storage technology gained 2 to 17½. It forecast higher year net.

American Telephone, which yesterday reached agreement to settle a civil anti-trust suit brought by International Telephone, rose 1 to 47½. ITT eased 2 to 26.

February 27: The Dow Jones industrial average closed 9.13 points at 855.12.

Gold slightly down

New York, Feb 27. GOLD futures at New York closed slightly higher at \$328.00, down from \$328.50 on Feb 26. The March 1980 contract was at \$328.00, down from \$328.50 on Feb 26.

SILVER futures fell sharply on reports of Soviet President Brezhnev's visit to the Soviet Union, down from \$10.00 on Feb 26 to \$9.80 on Feb 27.

COTTON futures were trading near parity with the futures market, down from 100.00 on Feb 26 to 99.00 on Feb 27.

WHEAT futures were trading near parity with the futures market, down from 1.00 on Feb 26 to 0.99 on Feb 27.

SOYBEAN futures were trading near parity with the futures market, down from 1.00 on Feb 26 to 0.99 on Feb 27.

CHICAGO GRAIN futures were trading near parity with the futures market, down from 1.00 on Feb 26 to 0.99 on Feb 27.

CHICAGO SOYBEAN futures were trading near parity with the futures market, down from 1.00 on Feb 26 to 0.99 on Feb 27.

CHICAGO WHEAT futures were trading near parity with the futures market, down from 1.00 on Feb 26 to 0.99 on Feb 27.

CHICAGO CORN futures were trading near parity with the futures market, down from 1.00 on Feb 26 to 0.99 on Feb 27.

CHICAGO RYE futures were trading near parity with the futures market, down from 1.00 on Feb 26 to 0.99 on Feb 27.

CHICAGO BARLEY futures were trading near parity with the futures market, down from 1.00 on Feb 26 to 0.99 on Feb 27.

CHICAGO OATS futures were trading near parity with the futures market, down from 1.00 on Feb 26 to 0.99 on Feb 27.

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CHICAGO LUMBER futures were trading near parity with the futures market, down from 1.00 on Feb 26 to 0.99 on Feb 27.

CHICAGO PAPER futures were trading near parity with the futures market, down from 1.00 on Feb 26 to 0.99 on Feb 27.

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CHICAGO OIL futures were trading near parity with the futures market, down from 1.00 on Feb 26 to 0.99 on Feb 27.

CHICAGO NATURAL GAS futures were trading near parity with the futures market, down from 1.00 on Feb 26 to 0.99 on Feb 27.

CHICAGO ELECTRICITY futures were trading near parity with the futures market, down from 1.00 on Feb 26 to 0.99 on Feb 27.

CHICAGO WATER futures were trading near parity with the futures market, down from 1.00 on Feb 26 to 0.99 on Feb 27.

CHICAGO WIND futures were trading near parity with the futures market, down from 1.00 on Feb 26 to 0.99 on Feb 27.

CHICAGO SUN futures were trading near parity with the futures market, down from 1.00 on Feb 26 to 0.99 on Feb 27.

CHICAGO MOON futures were trading near parity with the futures market, down from 1.00 on Feb 26 to 0.99 on Feb 27.

CHICAGO STARS futures were trading near parity with the futures market, down from 1.00 on Feb 26 to 0.99 on Feb 27.

CHICAGO PLANETS futures were trading near parity with the futures market, down from 1.00 on Feb 26 to 0.99 on Feb 27.

CHICAGO METEORS futures were trading near parity with the futures market, down from 1.00 on Feb 26 to 0.99 on Feb 27.

CHICAGO COMETS futures were trading near parity with the futures market, down from 1.00 on Feb 26 to 0.99 on Feb 27.

CHICAGO SHOOTING STARS futures were trading near parity with the futures market, down from 1.00 on Feb 26 to 0.99 on Feb 27.

CHICAGO FIREBALLS futures were trading near parity with the futures market, down from 1.00 on Feb 26 to 0.99 on Feb 27.

CHICAGO METEOR SHOWER futures were trading near parity with the futures market, down from 1.00 on Feb 26 to 0.99 on Feb 27.

CHICAGO AURORA futures were trading near parity with the futures market, down from 1.00 on Feb 26 to 0.99 on Feb 27.

CHICAGO NOCTURNAL SKY futures were trading near parity with the futures market, down from 1.00 on Feb 26 to 0.99 on Feb 27.

CHICAGO DIURNAL SKY futures were trading near parity with the futures market, down from 1.00 on Feb 26 to 0.99 on Feb 27.

CHICAGO COSMOS futures were trading near parity with the futures market, down from 1.00 on Feb 26 to 0.99 on Feb 27.

CHICAGO UNIVERSE futures were trading near parity with the futures market, down from 1.00 on Feb 26 to 0.99 on Feb 27.

CHICAGO GALAXY futures were trading near parity with the futures market, down from 1.00 on Feb 26 to 0.99 on Feb 27.

CHICAGO COSMOS futures were trading near parity with the futures market, down from 1.00 on Feb 26 to 0.99 on Feb 27.

Commodities

COPPER was weaker after very steady. The March 1980 contract was at 1.00, down from 1.01 on Feb 26.

WHEAT was weaker after very steady. The March 1980 contract was at 0.99, down from 1.00 on Feb 26.

SOYBEAN was weaker after very steady. The March 1980 contract was at 0.99, down from 1.00 on Feb 26.

CHICAGO GRAIN was weaker after very steady. The March 1980 contract was at 0.99, down from 1.00 on Feb 26.

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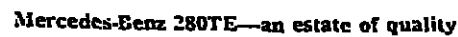
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Feb 25. Dealings End, March 7. \$ Contango Day, March 10. Settlement Day, March 17
\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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The approach of spring often heralds the arrival of new models and this year looks like proving no exception. The latest clutch, if that is the word, includes two important family cars of German origin that will be on sale in the showrooms during March.

The Vauxhall Astra will not be a unfamiliar sight on British roads, since in all but name and badge it is similar to the Opel Kadett, which is on sale here towards the end of last year. To begin with the Astra will be imported from Germany, but like the Cavalier it will eventually be assembled in Britain.

It is a car that is rightly acclaimed as one of the best cars in its class, so the Astra will be a powerful addition to a Vauxhall range that has improved out of all recognition since General Motors took over the company. In its new European models would be based on Opel designs.



The Astra is a small, front-wheel drive car, available either as a five-door hatchback or as an estate, powered by the new 1.3 litre Opel engine transversely mounted. It fits into a class of cars between the Cavalier and the Chevette, which is to continue well into the 1980s. The prices are £4,373 for the estate and £4,100 for the hatchback.

The second German car is the Volkswagen Jetta, which goes on sale on March 10. The Jetta is to the Volkswagen Derby is to the Polo, similar to the way the Jetta is a boot instead of a tailgate. Despite the versatility of the hatchback, many motorists still prefer the traditional sedan. The Volkswagen Jetta was has shrewdly recognized that. It expects to sell 10,000 Jettas in Britain this year.

Although between seven and 10 inches above the ground, sitting pitched against such medium saloons as the Ford Cortina, Vauxhall Cavalier and Renault 18, the front-wheel drive Astra has an engine layout and a space-saving

rear axle enables the car to offer as much interior space as rivals with larger overall dimensions. The Jetta's boot is said to be bigger than the Corvina's, which is some claim.

The car is being offered with a choice of three engine sizes, 1300cc, 1500cc and 1600cc, all fuel-injected. It is likely that the new Golf diesel engine, which combines outstanding economy with remarkable refinement, will be fitted at a later date.

The Jetta sold in Britain, with prices ranging from £4,080 for the base 1300 model, to £5,398 for the 1.6 TSi, has a five-speed gearbox, ventilated disc brakes and harder springing.

The Renault Fuego, which makes its public appearance at the Geneva Motor Show next week, is the successor to the 1517 range of sporting coupes now long gone. It is unusual for Renault to replace a car directly, recent practice being to add models to the range and at the same time drop others. The Fuego is considered to have served their

economic life. The Puego— the word is Spanish for "fire"—is also their first Renault since the Caravelle of the 1960s to carry a name instead of a number.

It is a two-door four seater with access to the boot through a large, curved lift-lid and a new, smooth, wedge-shaped rear window. Smooth, aerodynamic, it has a low drag coefficient, an appearance, as well as aerodynamic efficiency. The Puego claims not only the lowest drag factor of any car in its class, but also the lowest lift in its class. One consequence of this is good fuel economy and low running costs.

Three engines are used, all familiar from other Renault cars. 1357 cc, 1600 cc and the two-litre 1765 cc. The 1600 cc is developed jointly with Peugeot/Citroen. There is also a choice of three transmissions, four and five-speed manual and automatic. The Puego will make its British debut at the Birmingham International Motor Show in October and go on sale during November.

Meanwhile Honda has announced a five-door medium hatchback to be

called, appropriately, the Quinten. Based on the Prelude, this 1500 cc front-wheel drive car will eventually come to Britain but is not, Honda says, the model BL will assemble at Cowley in the second half of 1981.

Mercedes-Benz 280 TE

Although the British coachbuilding firm of Crayford has offered estate conversions of Mercedes saloons for some years, the manufacturer itself has only recently taken up the idea and the first factory-built examples arrived here less than a year ago. As might be expected, it is a typically thorough Mercedes job: a large and versatile load carrier that has the quality and drivability one has come to associate with the marque.

The estate is based on the Mercedes—“compact” saloon and has, in fact, the same wheelbase arrangement as the Mercedes. With the rear seats in use, the capacity is generous enough, extending to a height of 31 inches and a depth of four feet. When the rear seats are folded down, the depth increased to nearly six feet. But that is not the whole of it: The rear seats are split, and by folding down one side, it is possible to carry a load more than nine feet long. There is space under the boot for a few more things, and a slight sight and the tailgate, opening on a gas-pressurized struts which cleverly fold into the side walls, comes down to floor level. The trunk has a pump-out waste water wipe system. Two chromium ladders have been fitted to the roof to help to secure loads carried on top of the car.

The storage space is ample as well. The car can be used as a full five

seater, with plenty of leg and headroom in the back, and as an optional extra (costing £330) a backward-facing children's seat is available that tucks neatly into the floor when not in use. All the seat folding manoeuvres can be carried out with the minimum of effort and broken fingernails.

An important mechanical innovation is hydraulic self-levelling on the rear suspension, which adjusts automatically to the load carried. The system works on a pump driven by the engine and ensures that the car maintains a constant height. There are three engine options: a 2.4 litre diesel, and two six-cylinder petrol units, a 2.5 litre carburettor and the one I have been testing, a 2.8 litre twin overhead camshaft with fuel injection.

To drive, the car feels and performs little different from the saloon. Although performance is not the reason why you may want the car, the 280TE (which has the excellent Mercedes automatic transmission as standard) accelerates from rest to 60 mph in barely 10 seconds. It is impressive, considering the weight of the vehicle, gives, with the kickdown, tremendous mid-range flexibility, and has a claimed top speed of 125 mph. The steering is firm and the car is relaxing quick, and at the British motorway 70 mph limit barely stretched. On fuel consumption, I averaged 20 mpg.

Handling is characteristically sure and is helped by a power steering system which removes the effort but leaves sufficient feel and smoothly progressive brakes. Although one hardly judges an estate on its cornering, the 280TE scores highly in that area, too, with little bodyroll and good adhesion. Tires rumble on rough surfaces is a small blemish on what is otherwise a very quiet car.

The 280TE is a firm side, but acceptably so, and the same can be

said of the seats, which have plenty of adjustment and give good all-round support. The large steering wheel may not be to all tastes, or the push-pull handbrake, but these are quibbles. The heating system is split so that it can be adjusted separately for each side of the car and there are large, clear instru-

At £13,837 the 280TE is easily the most expensive estate on the market and the question must be asked whether it is so much better than other large estates that it's a lot less like the Volvo 265, Citroen CX and the Peugeot 504. With the Peugeot, still an excellent car in spite of its advancing years, priced at only £7,000 the Mercedes looks expensive indeed. But it is a Mercedes, with all that implies for dependable engineering and robust quality.

Lagonda Turbo

If everyone else is turbocharging cars these days, why not Aston Martin? The Aston five-litre, V8 engine is hardly sluggish, but there is no harm in trying to knock a couple of seconds off your acceleration times, and turbo is a way of doing it without disastrously affecting fuel consumption.

For the past six months Astom engineers have been working on a turbocharged version of the strikingly styled Lagonda and impressive results are now coming through: 0 to 60 mph in under seven seconds, 0 to 100 mph in 15 seconds. The company says, however, that it is as much concerned with the extra smoothness of the turbo as with performance. Trying the car briefly, I did not find it particularly refined but what acceleration! (and, incidentally, superb handling). Production Lagonda turbos will not be ready for another two years.

Peter Waymark

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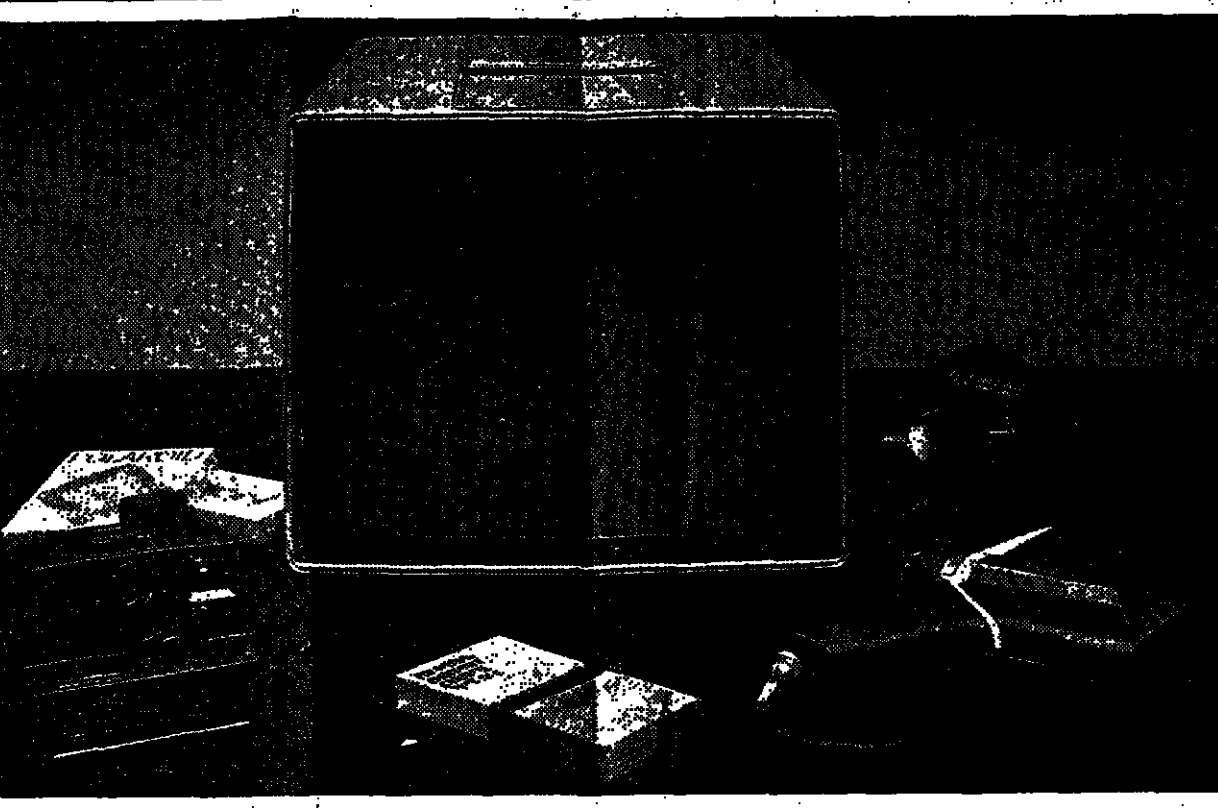
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Win this Polavision Camera and you're an instant film star.

First prize of this year's Summer Holiday Competition will be a complete Polavision movie outfit. The latest development from Polaroid.

Which, as its name suggests, gives instant moving pictures.

Simply shoot your movie with the hand-held camera, load the exposed film cassette into the player, wait just ninety seconds and then sit down and enjoy the show. No screens to set up. No projector to thread.

Just imagine, you could show a wedding at the reception, relive Christmas Day on Boxing Day or even watch your holiday films while you're still on holiday.

The possibilities are endless. And things are looking good for the runners up. Every week, for three months, we'll be giving away a Polasonic Auto Focus 5000 which produces instant colour photographs and guarantees perfect sharpness.

And for three other lucky losers there'll be a pair of 'Lookers by Polaroid' Sunglasses.

HOW TO ENTER First, read through the holiday columns and find the answers to these three simple questions.

1. 8 or 9 sleep near offers Dyke?
2. A Castle, a Hotel, a Farmhouse, where?
3. Sights and sounds of water in every room?

*Prizes supplied by Unilever.

Now imagine that you are an exhausted Robinson Crusoe shortly after arrival on Desert Island.

Is the place all you had hoped for? Admittedly it's scorching hot, secluded and the native is friendly. But don't the amenities leave something to be desired? Hotel not even partially constructed, night life a shade dull and the possibility of romance exceedingly remote.

All in all it doesn't add up to much of a holiday. So write a letter of complaint (max. 100 words) to the travel agency that has organised your stay there.

But beware. They're also responsible for your return and too harsh a criticism could leave you stranded. Best to make light of the matter. Humour them.

Then send us your letter. We must receive it by next Wednesday. So don't put it in a bottle, post it directly to The Times Summer Holiday Competition, New Printing House Square, Grays Inn Road, London WC1.

At the end of the competition all the winning entries will be judged again and the author of the most entertaining letter will receive the Polavision Movie outfit.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. Employees of The Times Newspapers Limited and their families may not apply.
2. The decision of the judges is final.

THE TIMES

U.K. Holidays Competition.

Scotland

ISLE OF SKYE KINLOCH LODGE HOTEL

A former shooting lodge, now a small, comfortable hotel with superb views across the Sound of Skye. We specialise in the catering of all occasions. Under the personal supervision of the proprietor, the hotel offers a most enjoyable stay.

PERTHSHIRE, Glenelg, mod. farmhouse, sleeps 6/7. Full C.S. daily, self-catering facilities. 2-5 p.w. (0752) 261997 even.

LOCK MISS AREA. Holiday cottage, 2-5 p.w. (0752) 261997 even.

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East Anglia

EAST ANGLIA LONGON-ONE

A new, comfortable hotel with superb views across the Sound of Skye. We specialise in the catering of all occasions. Under the personal supervision of the proprietor, the hotel offers a most enjoyable stay.

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LOCK MISS

